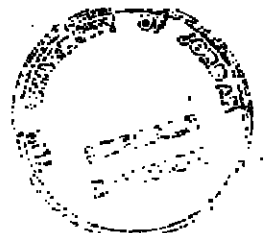


Syrian vice-president ends Iran visit

NYC (R) — Syrian Vice-President Abdul Halim Khaddam said at the end of a three-day visit to Iran Tuesday Tehran wanted to resolve peacefully a territorial dispute with the United Arab Emirates (UAE). Tehran Radio said, "Syria is mediating between Iran and the UAE. The impression is that Iran seriously wants the existing problems to be resolved through political negotiations," it quoted Mr. Khaddam as saying. The radio said Mr. Khaddam described his talks with Iranian leaders as "very fruitful." But it did not say if the talks had produced any concrete result in defusing tensions in Iran's relations with Gulf Arab states and Egypt. Iran last year tightened its control over Abu Musa island, which it has shared with UAE member Sharjah since 1971. Gulf Arab states then charged Iran with annexation and demanded Tehran leave Abu Musa and two nearby islands. Iran has said it will never give up the islands, and that the Arab demands are inspired by "enemies of Islam." The radio quoted Iranian Vice-President Hassan Habibi as saying Iran sought good relations with its neighbors but considered Gulf Arab leaders' positions in the dispute at odds with their calls for closer ties.



Jordan Times

An independent Arab political daily published by the Jordan Press Foundation
جوردان تلغز يومية سياسية مستقلة عن المؤسسة الصحفية الأردنية والرأي

French franc survives pressure

LONDON (R) — The French franc survived pressure from speculators Tuesday but dealers appear to be keeping their powder dry to see if the Bundesbank cuts German interest rates Thursday to help the embattled French currency. The French and German authorities issued a joint statement to demonstrate their support for the franc's parities with the mark in the European Community's exchange rate mechanism (ERM). France followed the communiqué by ending its five- to 10-day lending rate of 10 per cent and offering emergency funds at 12 per cent to shore up the weakening currency. But private economists said the bid to head off attempts by dealers to force a franc devaluation had done little more than buy time for the franc. "The pressure for devaluation is still there," said Ian Harnett, chief economist at Societe Generale Strauss Turnbull. Dealers said they had not seen Banque du France or the Bundesbank intervening as they had done on Monday but added that the central banks were prowling in the wings. A senior Bonn official said the Bundesbank spent 3.5 billion marks (\$2.1 billion) in its intervention to bolster the franc Monday.

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Price: Jordan 100 fils; Saudi Arabia 1.50 riyals; UAE 1.50 dirhams

Shevardnadze wants peacekeepers

TBILISI, Georgia (R) — Georgian leader Eduard Shevardnadze has asked the United Nations to send peacekeeping forces to quell fighting in the breakaway Black Sea region of Abkhazia, a parliamentary statement said Tuesday. The statement said Mr. Shevardnadze also asked U.N. Secretary-General Boutros Ghali to insist on neutrality from neighboring countries. The tiny Transcaucasian state's most powerful neighbor is Russia. Hundreds of people have been killed in the Georgia-Abkhazian conflict since August when Georgia responded to local demands for greater sovereignty by sending in troops.

Judge in Honecker trial removed

BERLIN (AP) — The chief judge in the manslaughter trial of former East German leader Erich Honecker has been removed from the proceedings because of possible prejudice, a court spokesman said Tuesday. Although the trial will reconvene Thursday, the decision is a setback for prosecutors. Doctors predict the 80-year-old former communist boss will die of liver cancer before a verdict can be reached. Mr. Honecker is charged with manslaughter stemming from the deaths of East Germans killed while trying to flee to West Germany. Court spokesman Bruno Rautenberg said Chief Judge Hansgeorg Brautigam would be replaced by one of the two assistant judges in the trial. An alternate judge who has been following the proceedings will then join the three-judge panel. There are also two lay jurors. Defence lawyers and the attorneys for the victims' families claimed Mr. Brautigam compromised himself by passing on a request for Mr. Honecker's autograph from one of the alternate jurors Dec. 21. A panel of judges from Berlin's district court agreed, removing Mr. Brautigam because of worries about prejudice.

Arab League chief in Kuwait on PoWs

KUWAIT (R) — The Arab League secretary-general arrived in Kuwait Tuesday to discuss efforts to trace Kuwaiti nationals listed as missing since the Gulf war. The Kuwait News Agency (KUNA) said Esamat Abdul Meguid would meet Kuwait's Foreign Minister and Deputy Prime Minister Sheikh Sabah Al Ahmad Al Jaber Al Sabah to discuss last month's visit to Baghdad by Arab League envoy Rachid Driss. The Iraqis invited Mr. Driss to return to discuss the matter further, KUNA said. Kuwait says hundreds of prisoners of war are still held captive in Iraq. Baghdad said it no longer holds any Kuwaiti prisoners.

Evictee takes exam at Lebanon camp

MARJ AL ZOHOOR, Lebanon (R) — Khaled Zueid — university student and evictee — sat for his final exam in the history of the Ottoman empire in front of Tent 45. Two university instructors supervised him as other evictees cooked and washed nearby in the icy South Lebanon to which Israel expelled them all last month. "Tell them we have turned the camp into a university," Dr. Abdul Fatah Al Ouwaiss, who prepared the exam, told Reuters. "If we can get books, we will open classes to our students right here." Mr. Ouwaiss was Zueid's history teacher at Hebron University in the West Bank.

Germans split over sending troops abroad

BONN (R) — Germans are evenly divided over Chancellor Helmut Kohl's determination to send armed troops abroad on United Nations peace-keeping missions, an opinion poll released Tuesday showed. It showed that 44 per cent of the people polled believed that the role of the German armed forces should remain limited to defending Germany or other allied states from attack. An equal number supported sending German troops on U.N. peace-keeping operations.

Deputies expected to endorse draft budget despite fierce criticism

By Ayman Al Safadi and Masa Aloul
Jordan Times Staff Reporters

AMMAN — The Lower House of Parliament is scheduled to vote on the draft budget for 1993 Wednesday with observers expecting a vote of confidence on the document despite the criticism it received from the majority of deputies.

The draft budget will be put to vote after the House listens to the government's response to deputies' speeches.

Fifty-one deputies took the floor in the last three days to voice their views on the draft budget, with the majority of them criticising government policies on poverty, unemployment, taxation and agriculture and showering it with demands for services and projects in their constituencies. Deputies also lashed at the implementation of economic policies designed in accordance with the "instructions" of the International Monetary Fund (IMF) and demanded reform of a government bureaucracy they charged is infested with inefficiency, nepotism and abuse of office.

Most of the 22 deputies who spoke in Tuesday's session echoed complaints and accusations made by other parliamentarians earlier.

Deputies said poverty was fast

spreading in the country and blamed government for burdening limited-income citizens with heavy taxes despite the increased cost of living.

Claiming an unfair government distribution of development funds and investment projects among governorates and citizens, many deputies warned of a negative social impact of pushing people into the alleys of poverty.

"The continuous deterioration of living standards... and the fast eroding purchasing power of incomes is one of the major elements destabilising social security," Balqa Deputy Fouzi Tuaimneh said, echoing an alarm made by other deputies.

Mr. Tuaimneh reiterated charges of other parliamentarians in claiming that government was concentrating its investments in Amman at the expense of other regions in the Kingdom.

Deputies called for emphasising productive investments in its economic policy to provide more job opportunities and reduce its dependence on imports. They criticised rising imports and urged more attention to the agricultural sector.

And even though there were many calls for reforming government bureaucracy, some deputies came to the defence of the minister of social development and the National Aid Fund, which the

House's Finance Committee, said were following unfair policies in the distribution of their funds among citizens.

The committee said the minister was allocating more funds to his home governorate, Mafrqa. "We should not target one minister," freshman Deputy Mohammed Al Azaideh (Madaba) said. Mafrqa Deputy Nawaf Al Khawaldeh also defended the minister, saying that Mafrqa, which, he said, has the largest rate of poverty in the Kingdom, received its fair share of government assistance without any favouritism.

"I have reservations about the committee's (charge) which was made by the committee president only, that... claimed the minister of social development was abusing office for personal ambitions," Mr. Khawaldeh said.

He said this "unfair accusation gives Mafrqa residents the impression that (the charge was motivated by) personal grudges."

"Why was the minister singled out?" he said.

Many deputies Tuesday castigated the IMF and charged that its "bankrupt" policies aimed to consolidate its hold of the fate of

See page 3 for excerpts from deputies' speeches

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103rd U.S. Congress in office

WASHINGTON (AP) — Gavel banged the 103rd U.S. Congress into session Tuesday, as record numbers of female, black and Hispanic lawmakers gathered amid pledges of action and change.

Both the House of Representatives and Senate convened at precisely noon local time, as required by the constitution. The proceedings began under the gaze of visitors' galleries packed with lawmakers' families, friends and constituents.

"The Senate will come to order," Vice-President Dan Quayle shouted four times over the din in the Senate chamber as he banged the gavel. The vice-president presides over the chamber.

The house was gavelled to business by House clerk Donald Anderson.

Just hours before being sworn into office, some of the House's 110 freshmen — the chamber's biggest group of newcomers in 44 years — agreed that the country's economic problems had to be addressed. But like their veteran

(Continued on Page 5)

Arab ministers condemn terrorism

TUNIS (Agencies) — Arab interior ministers condemned all forms of terrorism Tuesday but stopped short of pointing the finger of blame at Muslim fundamentalist militants or their backers.

Egypt, Algeria and Tunisia, each fighting a sustained fundamentalist challenge, urged the Arab League meeting Monday to create a united front to fight Muslim extremists across the Arab World.

The 16 ministers attending the two-day meeting unanimously adopted a statement condemning "terrorism in all its forms, methods and sources, and all forms of its material and moral support."

Delegates said ministers from countries facing no fundamentalist challenge, opposed any wording associating Islam with terrorism, destruction and criminal acts.

"There was a compromise made possible by Saudi Arabia, Tunisia and even Sudan in order to issue a statement worded in such a way that each country can interpret it according to its national interests," one delegate from a Gulf country said.

The agenda for the meeting spoke of an Arab security plan for the next five years. The adopted resolutions made no specific mention of this.

The ministers, the final statement said, had "decided... to reinforce combined Arab action to confront acts of violence and terrorism which threaten the security and the stability of any Arab country."

The statement did not name Muslim fundamentalist groups fighting the governments of Egypt, Algeria and, to a lesser extent, Tunisia.

It did not name countries traditionally accused of giving material or moral support to the Muslim activists.

The condemnation, it said, had its roots in a belief "in the principles and values the Islamic Sharia which calls for the condemnation of all forms of injustice, aggression and crime."

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CBJ restates warning to groups soliciting capital without its permission

By a Jordan Times Staff Reporter

AMMAN — The Central Bank of Jordan (CBJ) Sunday reiterated its warning to a U.S.-based establishment against soliciting investments from Jordanians. But an official of the American-based group said its activities were "Islamic charity" and was going ahead with its plans. "We have seen more than one advertisement in the local newspapers inviting investments from Jordanians and our warning was clearly aimed at this company," said CBJ Governor Mohammad Saeed Al Nabulsi.

The advertisements, which referred to Islamic concepts of investment, looked "suspicious" and hence the warning to the public, Dr. Nabulsi said.

But Ahmad Ghaith, an official of the International Islamic Project (IIP) which had placed the advertisements, said he was not aware that the CBJ warning was targeted at his establishment.

"We are in the process of registering a regional office in Amman, and we have not been told that we were the target of the CBJ warning," he told the Jordan Times in a telephone interview from his hotel room in Amman.

The CBJ first issued an indirect warning to the public Sunday against dealing with "irresponsible parties which try to attract investments outside the Kingdom without obtaining CBJ approval."



Mohammad Saeed Al Nabulsi

The warning, which did not name the "irresponsible parties," said such invitations were in violation of the rules and regulations of the Central Bank and "people promoting these projects without its approval... will be subject to legal proceedings."

Speaking to the Jordan

(Continued on Page 5)



King and Queen return home

AMMAN (J.T.) — Their Majesties King Hussein and Queen Noor returned home from London Tuesday after a several day private visit to the United Kingdom.

King Hussein and Queen Noor were received upon arrival by His Royal Highness Crown Prince Hassan and Royal family members. Also receiving the King and Queen were Prime Minister Sharif

Zeid Ben Shaker, Lower House of Parliament Speaker Abdul Latif Arabiyat, Royal Court Chief Khaled Al Karaki, Chief Chamberlain Prince Ra'ad Ben Zeid, Private Chamberlain Prince Ali Ben Nayef, Cabinet ministers, the chairman of the Joint Chiefs of Staff, and directors of the General Intelligence and Civil Defence departments.

Returning with Their Majes-

ties were Their Royal Highnesses Prince Faisal Ben Al Hussein, Princess Alia Al Faisal and Prince Ghazi Ben Mohammad.

King Hussein underwent medical checkups last month at the Mayo clinic in Rochester, Minnesota, where he had surgery last summer. He then made the private visit to England.

Tanker spills oil off Scotland

SUMBURGH, Scotland (Agencies) — A stricken tanker ran aground in a storm Tuesday and poured oil onto the coast of northern Scotland's Shetland Islands, raising fears of an ecological disaster.

Abandoned by crew after an engine failure, the Liberian-registered Braer hit rocks in heavy seas, threatening to devastate wildlife colonies. The tanker carried 84,500 tonnes of crude oil, twice as much as spilled by the Exxon Valdez tanker in Alaska four years ago.

"It is going to be virtually impossible to avert a major environmental disaster," said Paul Horsman of the environmental group Greenpeace.

Efforts to contain pollution and save the remote region's abundant bird and marine life were hampered by gale-force winds of up to 100 kilometres per hour. "Some oil is leaking from the forward tanks. But we cannot get aircraft into the air so we don't know exactly the extent of the leak," said a spokeswoman for the marine pollution control unit in London.

She said it was difficult to predict how much oil would spill or how quickly it would break up. "It is light crude oil, so in a way that may actually help because it breaks up quite easily. So the weather might deal with the problem for us," she said.

Shetland police sealed off the headland for fear of an explosion. Press Association, the British national news agency, reported

(Continued on page 3)

Israel stands firm on expulsion despite threat of new U.N. move

OCCUPIED JERUSALEM (Agencies) — Israel said Tuesday it stood by its decision to expel 415 Palestinians to Lebanon despite a threat by the U.N. secretary-general to recommend action to force their return.

The men, exiled for alleged links to militant groups, have been left in an icy area for 19 days. Both Israel and Lebanon have disclaimed responsibility for the men.

Israeli spokesmen said Prime Minister Yitzhak Rabin told U.N. Secretary-General Boutros Ghali he welcomed a proposal to send a U.N. envoy to Israel, the second in two weeks.

Dr. Ghali told the U.N. Secur-

ity Council Monday that he may have to recommend, "further steps" should this second mission also fail to secure the evictees' return as demanded by a Dec. 18 council resolution.

"The policy of the government of Israel is that the act of removal was used in order to protect Israelis as well as Palestinians and this act was accomplished and the government is standing behind its decision," spokesman Oded Ben-Ami said.

"We said we are going to welcome the special envoy. We will hear him. We will tell him what is on our mind and that is it for now," said Mr. Ben-Ami, the defence ministry spokesman.

Israeli media quoted government officials as saying the visit by Chinmaya Gharekhan — Dr. Ghali's special political adviser and representative to Middle East multilateral peace talks — would at least delay any further Security Council action which could include a threat of sanctions.

Israeli officials declined comment on Dr. Ghali's threat except to say that all issues would be addressed during Mr. Gharekhan's visit.

Raphael Ganzou said Mr. Gharekhan was to meet Israel's U.N. ambassador Gad Yaacobi

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Agreement eludes Somali warlords

ADDIS ABABA (Agencies) — U.N. Secretary-General Boutros Ghali said Tuesday warring Somali factions had failed to agree on holding a peace conference.

But Dr. Ghali said exploratory talks in Addis Ababa, which he said had made progress all the same, had been extended by a third day to end Wednesday.

"They still have not agreed on the venue and the date of the conference — neither who will participate," he told reporters.

The U.N.-sponsored meeting in the Ethiopian capital had still made some progress in setting up a committee of three warlords to discuss when and where further talks should be held, he said.

"The glass is half full, because we have been able to create a

peace process," he said. "There had been no contact between Somali leaders because they were in different places."

In what many saw as a qualified success, the talks brought together the largest gathering ever of warlords who plunged Somalia into chaos two years ago and helped spark a famine in which at least 350,000 people have died.

The roundtable slid towards collapse earlier on Tuesday when a group led by warlord Mohammad Aided accused the U.N. of misinforming meddles in Somali politics.

General Aided's Somali National Alliance said in a statement: "U.N. bureaucrats, from

(Continued on Page 5)

Shots fired at tourists in Egypt

CAIRO (AP) — Less than a month after the government launched a massive drive to crush Muslim extremists, shots were fired Tuesday near two buses carrying German and Japanese tourists in southern Egypt.

No casualties were reported in the shooting incident, the first involving foreign tourists this year.

Last year, extremists carried out 11 attacks against tourists killing one foreigner and wounding eight others.

There was conflicting information about whether the tourist buses had been targeted in Tuesday's shooting.

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Newspaper exchange reveals new information on 1989 Ma'an riots

By a Jordan Times Staff Reporter

AMMAN — A controversial statement by a leading Jordanian politician and deputy has revealed new information and shed new light on the Ma'an riots in 1989 which led to the downfall of then Prime Minister Zeid Rifai's government and the onset of the "new age of democracy" in Jordan.

Two former officials, the governor and police chief of Ma'an at the time, published letters in the Arabic daily Al Rai Tuesday criticising the leader of the newly-licensed Al Mustaqbal Party, Sulaiman Arar, for comments he made in an interview with an Arabic daily last week over events leading to the riots in the south of Jordan.

In this interview with Al Rai

newspaper, Mr. Arar, who is a former deputy prime minister and ex-speaker of the Lower House, had laid blame for the Ma'an riots on the then governor who, he said, would not receive drivers of "service" taxis who wanted to complain about a Cabinet decision to raise the prices of fuel "but didn't find anyone who will listen to them."

Mr. Arar, whose interview was published as part of a series of articles on emerging political parties in the country, added that the drivers were "threatened and then police started taking their car keys from them and that is when the clashes began."

However, the former governor, Mr. Jamal Moumani, and the police chief, retired Brigadier-General Ghazi Zureiqi, rebutted Mr. Arar's version of the story, saying that the

governor was waiting to meet with the drivers on the morning of April 17, 1989, but that the meeting never materialised because a riot had started by that time.

Mr. Moumani said he was especially hurt by Mr. Arar's recount of the events of that morning because Mr. Arar's experience as an interior minister for many years "should make him more conscious of being accurate on issues that touch the nation and its citizens."

Mr. Arar, who hails from Ma'an, had served as minister of the interior with former Prime Minister Mudar Badran in the seventies and early eighties. He was asked in the Al Rai interview whether he had anything to do with the riots in Ma'an, since he was a political opponent of Mr. Rifai, but he denied any

responsibility saying he was travelling in Europe at the time and had nothing to do with the riots.

The most controversial element to the riots, which lasted for only five days and spread from the city of Ma'an to other cities in central and northern Jordan, was the security apparatus's handling of the rioters, which were accused of being responsible for the unnecessary death of eight people including two security officers. Another 89, including 47 security officers were wounded.

At the time, His Royal Highness Crown Prince Hassan told reporters that one of the reasons it took too long to contain the situation in the south was the use of limited force by the security forces to avoid "a robust firefight

(Continued on Page 5)

Algeria announces censorship, special courts

ALGIERS (R) — Algeria's army-backed government announced imminent censorship of press reports on security matters Tuesday and inaugurated special courts to impose exceptionally harsh sentences on Muslim extremists.

"News of a security nature will soon be submitted to an embargo and will not be publishable without the stamp of the competent services," government spokesman Messaoud Ait Chaital told local journalists.

Justice Minister Mohammad Tegui announced late Monday that three courts created by decree last October to crack down on cases of "subversion" and "terrorism" were ready to start work under anonymous judges.

Under the decree, they must impose the death penalty for offences which would normally get life imprisonment and life for those ordinarily punishable by 10 to 20 years jail. They must double all other jail terms.

Mr. Tegui said he had told the courts he expected "scrupulous application of the law towards the authors of acts of terrorism and

people implicated."

He reminded the courts that Islamic militants had killed police, soldiers, para-military gendarmes and civilians.

Authorities blame members of the Islamic Salvation Front (FIS), outlawed after it was poised to win general elections in 1991, for killing more than 210 members of the security forces in 1992.

More than 1,200 people arrested in the past two months as suspected militants are likely to appear before the courts, facing sentences ranging from a minimum five years' jail to execution by firing squad.

In a case illustrating government concern about reporting of security matters, six journalists spent their third day in cells on Tuesday for reporting the killings last week of five para-military gendarmes.

The facts have not been challenged but their newspaper *Al Watan* was suspended for "pre-mature" reporting of events in a place covered by "national defence secrecy."

The gendarmerie told Algerian

journalists that the newspaper had not given them time to deploy forces to track the killers or contact the families of the dead men.

They also said the source of the report must have been the killers or a "mole" in the security services, newspapers said.

Mr. Chaital denied that censorship would be aimed at muzzling the press.

"But there are limits which must not be passed and these go to the superior interests of the nation and respect for those who daily, at the cost of their life, defend the unity and durability of the nation," he said.

The decree creating the new courts defines the crimes they are to punish as any offence against the "security of the state, territorial integrity, stability and normal functioning of institutions" which involves acts affecting personal security or property or undermining state symbols.

The three courts are based in the capital Algiers and the eastern and western cities of Oran and Constantine.

Each court will have five

judges, who cannot be named. Anyone divulging anything enabling them to be identified will be jailed for two to five years.

On Monday, an ordinary court in Annaba sentenced two men to three years jail for possessing subversive tracts.

Interior Minister Mohammad Hardi, who is attending a Tunis conference of Arab interior ministers aimed at forming an Arab front against fundamentalist violence, said Monday the whole Arab World was threatened by terrorism using Islam as an excuse.

He said Algeria, Tunisia and Egypt had been chosen as prime targets because of their strategic situations and growing problems.

The government, which has steadily escalated its fight against the militants, slapped an indefinite night curfew last month on the capital Algiers and six nearby provinces and arrested scores of suspects.

The official news agency APS said on Sunday 69 "terrorists" had been seized in the latest round-up preparing to attack security forces.



A starving Somali child, arriving from Baidoa, waits for food at a feeding centre (AFP photo)

MIDDLE EAST NEWS IN BRIEF

Mubarak sends message to Qadhafi

CAIRO (AP) — A cabinet minister said Tuesday he would travel to Libya to relay a message from President Hosni Mubarak to Libyan leader Muammar Qadhafi. Information Minister Safwat Al Sherif told reporters the message concerned "issues that interest Egypt and Libya." He did not elaborate. Egypt has been trying to mediate an end to Libya's crisis with the West. Mr. Mubarak and Colonel Qadhafi were in touch by telephone twice in the last few days, but no details of their conversations were disclosed.

Syrian newspaper warns of united Europe

DAMASCUS (AP) — The Arabs must work for greater cohesion or risk being dominated by a new, united Europe, the government-run daily newspaper *Tishrin* said Tuesday. "The Arabs will be the target of the European giant, which views the Arab World as a convenient vital area for consolidating its power," the newspaper said in an editorial. "The competition that inevitably will arise between America, Japan and the united Europe will actually push the latter to tighten its grip on the Arab World," it added. The newspaper said the European Community's moves towards unity, such as the abolition of border controls between most member nations Jan. 1, meant that the Arabs must try to close ranks.

Lebanese police seize 8 tonnes of hashish

BEIRUT (R) — Lebanese police confiscated Tuesday eight tonnes of hashish and arrested three drug dealers as they were preparing to ship the grass to Holland. The chief of police Major General Mohammad Kubrousy said it was the largest amount of hashish seized in a single bust in Lebanon's history. He estimated the shipment to be worth \$8 million. The Lebanese government, in an attempt to improve its international image, has ordered a crack-down on drug cultivation and trafficking across the country.

U.S. may sell chemical plant to Iran

WASHINGTON (AP) — The Bush administration is considering whether to approve the sale of a \$100 million chemical plant to Iran even though it could produce a chemical warfare agent as a byproduct, according to a published report. The Washington Post says in Tuesday's editions that the Commerce Department is backing the sale of the plant by B.P. America, which has told the administration the plant would only produce materials for synthetic fibers. The Post said officials at the departments of State and Defence oppose the deal because the plant would yield hydrogen cyanide as an unavoidable byproduct. That substance was used as a chemical warfare agent in World War I by France, Britain and Russia. The Post also reported that administration officials were expected to consider a plan by the Ayres Corporation to sell Iran 10 airplanes worth \$7 million to spray chemical pesticides on farm crops. The newspaper quoted Fred P. Ayres, president of the company, as saying the planes cannot be used to spray chemical warfare agents without endangering the pilots.

Turkey sends relief supplies to South Ossetia

ISTANBUL (R) — Turkey sent a Red Crescent convoy of six trucks of relief supplies Monday to the Georgian region of South Ossetia, a Foreign Ministry official said. Foreign Ministry spokesman Ferhat Ataman said the trucks carried 62 tonnes of aid including food, vitamins, medicines and generators, he said. The aid was valued at \$600,000. "The aid will be distributed to all ethnic groups without discrimination," Mr. Ataman said. He said Georgia had given consent to the aid shipment to the region, which has been torn by civil war. In December, the Red Crescent Society shipped 500 tonnes of medical supplies to the separatist Georgian region of Abkhazia.

Avalanches in Turkey kill at least 5

SIRNAK (AP) — Turkey sent a Red Crescent convoy of six trucks of relief supplies Monday to the Georgian region of South Ossetia, a Foreign Ministry official said. Foreign Ministry spokesman Ferhat Ataman said the trucks carried 62 tonnes of aid including food, vitamins, medicines and generators, he said. The aid was valued at \$600,000. "The aid will be distributed to all ethnic groups without discrimination," Mr. Ataman said. He said Georgia had given consent to the aid shipment to the region, which has been torn by civil war. In December, the Red Crescent Society shipped 500 tonnes of medical supplies to the separatist Georgian region of Abkhazia.

Yemen to start registering voters for poll

SANAA (R) — Yemen will start registering voters this month for its first general election since the unification of North and South Yemen in 1990, officials said. The election, planned for April, will select 301 representatives for Yemen's parliament. The officials said the higher election committee began preparing Monday for voter registration from Jan. 18 to Feb. 16. The election was initially planned for November 1992. The higher election committee postponed the poll in October saying it needed time to register voters and check candidates.

Tajik refugees housed in Afghan bunkers

ISLAMABAD (R) — Refugees from Tajikistan's civil war are digging bunkers in a refugee camp in the desert of northern Afghanistan to protect themselves from the bitter winter cold, United Nations officials said Monday. About 6,000 refugees have been moved into the camp in northern Afghanistan, 25 kilometres from the city of Mazar-e-Sharif, out of the estimated 40,000-50,000 who have fled across the border from Tajikistan. The refugees have so far dug 30 underground shelters, about two metres deep and 30 metres long and five metres wide, and are able to house about six families each, the U.N. High Commissioner for Refugees said in a statement issued in Islamabad. Heavy duty tents provided from Pakistan and Turkey have proved insufficient against the fierce winter storms, the UNHCR said.



BETHLEHEM VIGIL: Nawal Khaled (R), wife of an expelled Palestinian, cradles her child during a protest Tuesday at Bethlehem University to demand the return of the 415 Palestinians expelled to South Lebanon (AFP photo)

Rights group reports fighting in Djibouti

PARIS (R) — A human rights group in Djibouti said Tuesday fighting had broken out in the Red Sea state between government forces and rebels and could have claimed hundreds of casualties in the past week.

The Djibouti Association for the Defence of Human Rights and Freedom said in a statement received in Paris that government forces had launched an all-out offensive against Afar rebels from the northern town of Tadjourah.

The group said government forces, under orders to capture at any cost a strategic road out of Tadjourah from the rebel Front for the Restoration of Unity and Democracy (FRUD), were fighting with suicidal determination.

"Several hundred people could have killed or wounded in fighting of unprecedented violence," it said.

It said rebels had reached the town's southern and northern suburbs in a counter-offensive Monday night.

The group said that what it called the government's all-out war policy could plunge Djibouti into civil war similar to that in neighbouring Somalia.

A U.S.-led multinational force intervened in Somalia to stop warring factions diverting aid from starving refugees. France has contributed more than 2,000 soldiers to the force, including some 1,000 from its 4,500-strong garrison in Djibouti.

In a separate statement, FRUD urged France to resume relief aid to the 150,000 to 200,000 residents of Djibouti's rebel-held area.

It said French relief workers and doctors left the region on Dec. 31 at the request of the Djibouti government.

"FRUD regrets that the principle of humanitarian interference was overcome by reasons of state," it said.

The human rights association has said civilians in rebel-held areas were being deprived of food and medical aid by a government blockade.

FRUD repeated it was prepared to open negotiations with the government without any preconditions. A French plan for direct talks fell apart last year after the government demanded that the rebels release prisoners before a dialogue could start.

Relief aid reaches Sudan rebel town

KHARTOUM (R) — Relief supplies have started reaching famine-hit southern Sudan after an agreement between the government and southern rebels to open river, rail and land routes for food deliveries, a Khartoum newspaper said Tuesday.

The armed forces newspaper *Al Ghatat* Al Musallah said river barges with 1,900 tonnes of food and medicines reached Nasir, a town on the Ethiopian border held by the rebel Sudan Peoples Liberation Army (SPLA), in the last two days.

The SPLA is fighting for autonomy for the Christian and animist south from the Islamic government in Khartoum and the Arabised north.

The government signed an agreement last month with the three factions of the SPLA to open routes from northern Sudan and neighbouring Kenya for delivery of food to both government-held towns and SPLA-controlled areas in the south.

The newspaper said three barges with 2,400 tonnes of sorghum, beans and edible oil were on their way from Kosti to the north to Juba, the main southern town, and a similar amount had reached Malakal 520 kilometres north of Juba.

Another 1,000 tonnes of food are due to leave the northern Sudanese town of Babanusa for Wau, the second largest town in southern Sudan, and 700 tonnes are to be moved from Kosti to the areas of Bentiu and Fanjak, the newspaper said.

Several barges have also been loaded with 2,100 tonnes of aid for the areas between Renk and Malakal in Upper Nile state in southern Sudan.

Pakistan orders out Afghan rebel groups

PESHAWAR (AP) — The government on Tuesday ordered all Afghan rebel groups to close their offices in Pakistan by the end of the month.

The rebels, from the most moderate to the most radical, vowed to resist.

"We can't return as long as there is neither peace nor security in Afghanistan," said Mengal Hussein, a spokesman for renegade rebel leader Gulbuddin Hekmatyar, once Pakistan's ally among the rebels.

Pakistan also wants dozens of aid organisations, run mostly by fundamentalist Islamists from Arab countries, to close their doors and send their employees home.

Most of these organisations, which sprung up during the Soviet occupation of Afghanistan from 1979 to 1989, are believed to be training mercenaries to fight holy wars in other Muslim countries.

Pakistan served as the staging area for Muslim insurgents who fought for 14 years to topple successive communist governments in Kabul.

But since the rebels overran the capital in late April and took power from the former communist rulers, the feuding rebel leadership has weakened in Kabul, with thousands of rockets on the city, destroying entire neighbourhoods and killing more than 2,500 people.

Pakistan government officials said Prime Minister Nawaz Sharif's conservative government was fed up with the bickering Afghan

leadership and wanted them to go home.

On Tuesday, Pakistan told the seven major rebel groups to close dozens of offices in the frontier city of Peshawar and in the federal capital of Islamabad by Jan. 31, said a government spokesman.

Peshawar said several northern African and Gulf countries have accused aid organisations in Pakistan of arming and training Islamic fundamentalists who return to their homelands to try to unseat the more liberal governments.

So far, government officials have refused to say how many aid groups have been ordered to leave or how many employees are involved in the deportation order, or what countries they represent.

U.S. to begin Somalia pullout this month

WASHINGTON (R) — The United States will begin withdrawing troops from Somalia this month, but the starving country is still too dangerous for a takeover by U.N. peacekeepers, Defence Secretary Dick Cheney said Monday.

Mr. Cheney stressed that most of the thousands of U.S. troops in Somalia will remain beyond January and that no decision had been made on when U.S. French and other forces will be replaced by U.N. peacekeepers to protect food and other aid.

"It's still a nasty, dangerous neighbourhood," he told reporters in an interview. "There's still a lot of work to be done to provide for the kind of secure environment that we would like to be able to pass on to the U.N."

Mr. Cheney spoke as informal peace talks between 14 Somali groups opened in the Ethiopian capital of Addis Ababa under U.N. auspices. The talks immediately ran into procedural problems.

"I think it's fair to say that by the end of the month we will have begun to reverse the flow, if you will, and begun to redeploy to the continental United States some portions of the U.S. forces that have been deployed over there," Mr. Cheney said.

"But that will be a beginning. We will by no means have a large number redeployed by then. It will start the process, that's the current plan," he cautioned.

The Bush administration has voiced hopes that some U.S. troops would begin coming home before President-elect Bill Clinton takes office on Jan. 20. But the Pentagon has stressed that the current military job is to create an atmosphere of safety in the country, where there is anarchy.

In the capital of Mogadishu Monday, the U.S. military denied a report quoting a French military officer as saying the transfer of military control in Somalia would be turned over to the United Nations by Jan. 20.

Mr. Cheney said talks were under way with aid officials and others on an eventual turnover



Richard Cheney

JORDAN TELEVISION

Tel. 73111-19

PROGRAMME TWO

19:00	Documentary
19:30	News in French
19:45	Varities
20:00	News in Arabic
20:30	Saved by the Bell
20:45	Sportlight
21:00	James Randy
21:15	News in English
21:30	Echoes in the Darkness

PRAYER TIMES

05:00	Fajr
06:30	Sunnat (Dhuha)
13:30	Dhuhr
14:25	'Asr
16:45	Maghrib
18:11	'Isha

CHURCHES

St. Mary of Nazareth Church Swedieh, Tel. 73111-19

Archdiocese of God Church, Tel. 73111-19

St. Joseph Church Tel. 625490

Church of the Annunciation Tel. 625491

De la Salle Church Tel. 60175

Terrassa Church Tel. 622366

Church of the Annunciation Tel. 623541

Anglican Church Tel. 630851, Tel. 625543

Armenian Catholic Church Tel. 711331

Armenian Orthodox Church Tel. 712661

St. Ephraim Church Tel. 717151

Armenian International Church Tel. 685326

Evangelical Lutheran Church Tel. 811265

The Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-Day Saints Tel. 823634, 654932

Church of the Nazareth Tel. 675691

WEATHER

Bulletin supplied by the Department of Meteorology.

It will be partly cloudy and there will be a chance for scattered showers of rain. Winds will be light and variable. Changing at times to southeasterly moderate. In Aqaba, winds will be northerly moderate and sea calm.

Min/Max. temp. 03/9

Aqaba 9/16

Dhaka 2/11

Jordan Valley 10/17

JORDAN TIMES DAILY GUIDE AND CALENDAR

USEFUL TELEPHONE NUMBERS

NIGHT DUTY

AMMAN:

Dr. Jamil Marouf 776149

Dr. Abbas Al Hakim 858980

Dr. Bahjat Bader 849362

Dr. Hisham Kanaan 700206

Firas pharmacy 661912

Furdows pharmacy 78336

Al Asma pharmacy 637055

Nairookh pharmacy 623672

Shamsi pharmacy 627640

Al Salam pharmacy 626730

Yacoub pharmacy 644985

Shamsi pharmacy 627640

Nairookh pharmacy 623672

Najib pharmacy 847832

EMERGENCIES

Food Control Centre 637111

Civil Defence Department 661111

Civil Defence Immediate 630341

Civil Defence Emergency 199

Rescue Police 192, 621111, 637777

Fire Brigade 891228

Blood Bank 775121

Highway Police 843402

Traffic Police 896390

Public Security Department 63021

Hotel Complaints 605800

Price Complaints 661176

Water and Sewerage 661176

Complaints 897467

Amman Municipality 787111

Telephone Information (directory assistance) 121

Overseas Calls 010230

Central Amman Telephone 623101

Repairs 661101

Abdali Telephone Repairs 661101

HOSPITALS

AMMAN:

Husseini Medical Centre 81381332

Khalidi Maternity, J. Amn. 642816

Akileh Maternity, J. Amn. 642412

Jabal Amman Maternity 642362

Mathis, J. Amman 636140

Paestine, Shamsani 691114

Shamsani Hospital 691131

University Hospital 845945

Al-Muasher Hospital 687279

The Islamic, Abdali 69413737

Al-Ahli, Abdali 6641646

Italian, Al-Mulajroon 777013

Al-Bashir, J. Ashrafieh 77511126

Army, Marka 89161115

Queen Alia Hospital 6224950

Amal Hospital 674155

ZARQA:

RJ Pligin Information 08-53200

Queen Alia Intl. Airport 08-53200

Jordan Television 731111

Radio Jordan 774111

Water Authority 670100

Jordan Electricity Authority 816151

Electric Power Company 626381

RJ Pligin Information 08-53200

Queen Alia Intl. Airport 08-53200

FOR THE TRAVELLER

QUEEN ALIA INTERNATIONAL AIRPORT

This information is supplied by Royal Jordanian (RJ) information department at the Queen Alia International Airport Tel. (06)53200-5, where it should always be verified.

ARRIVALS

Royal Jordanian (RJ) Flights (Terminal 1)

06:45	Dubai, Abu Dhabi (RJ)
09:00	Jeddah (RJ)
09:00	Aden (RJ)

DEPARTURES

Royal Jordanian (RJ) Flights (Terminal 1)

06:40	Madrid (RJ)
10:30	Rome (RJ)
10:30	Berlin, London (RJ)
11:00	Tunis, Comblanca (RJ)
11:30	Amsterdam, New York (RJ)
11:30	Colombo (RJ)
19:45	Aqaba, Cairo (RJ)
20:00	Riyadh (RJ)
20:15	New Delhi (RJ)
20:45	Damascus (RJ)

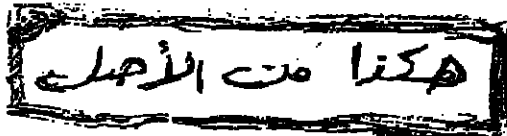
Other Flights (Terminal 2)

06:25	Rome (AZ)
06:35	Damascus (FI)
06:45	Beirut (ME)
10:25	Cairo (MS)
11:30	Sanaa (YU)
13:00	Jeddah (SU)
13:00	Karachi (PI)

MARKET PRICES

Upper flower price in fbs per kg

Apple	700/450
Banana	700/700
Banana (Mukammal)	640/640
Booni	350/300
Cabbage	120/80
Carrot	150/100
Cauliflower	300/250
Coumbers (large)	240/160
Coumbers (small)	600/450
Eggplant	200/150
Garlic	240/200
Gracfruit	230/200
Lemon	240/200
Marrow (large)	230/200
Marrow (small)	300/250
Onion (dry)	280/250
Onion (green)	380/300
Pepper (hot)	240/180
Pepper (sweet)	180/120



First Arab appointed bishop in 30 years

AMMAN (J.T.) — For the first time in thirty years, the Greek Orthodox Patriarch in Jerusalem has appointed an Arab priest to serve as a bishop in Jordan.

Born in Beirut where his parents emigrated after the 1948 Arab-Israeli war, Simaan Jabra Al Far studied initially in Ramallah schools before moving to Syria and Lebanon for theological studies.

He graduated in 1985 with a BA degree. Soon after graduation he became a priest and was assigned a number of posts in Jerusalem. This appointment as a bishop came less than a month after the Arab Orthodox community in Palestine and Jordan held its general conference in Amman to demand that the leadership of the church in Arab lands should be given to Arab priests.

Caritas receives Euro aid

AMMAN (J.T.) — Jordan Caritas, a local charity, announced Tuesday that it has begun receiving food supplies from European countries destined for needy Jordanians in the winter season.

"We have just received shipments of flour and cooking oil from Italy, and soon we are going to receive 60 tonnes of powdered milk from the European Community," said Caritas Director Father Mousa Adeli.

The shipments, together with clothes and blankets, will be distributed to victims of severe winter weather under a special programme similar to one implemented in the past year, said Father Adeli. Caritas currently operates seven medical centres and 10 vocational centres for the poor and, according to Father Adeli, operations are being conducted in close cooperation with the Ministry of Social Development.

"Thanks to Minister of Social Development Amin Mashagbeh's personal attention, the distribution programmes have been going on very efficiently and fairly in all regions," said Father Adeli.

Jordan Caritas, which last year celebrated its silver jubilee, plans to distribute the coming shipments from Europe under the supervision of the ministry and its departments especially in the rural regions, he noted.

Father Adeli said that Dr. Mashagbeh has made it his business to ensure that the distribution covers only those in need and facing difficulties resulting from poverty or severe-weather conditions affecting their regions.



Aid for former Soviets is loaded onto a cargo plane in Amman Tuesday (Petra photo)

Food and medicine sent to ex-Soviets

AMMAN (J.T.) — Jordan Tuesday dispatched a shipment of food and medical supplies to Muslims in Abkhazia and Kabardino Balkar, two former Soviet republics.

"The plane load of relief supplies will benefit the needy Muslims who have been complaining of drug shortages lately due to slow economic and other developments," said Dr. Abdul Salam Al Abbadi, chairman of the Jordan Hashemite Charity Organisation (JHCO).

The plane which left Amman Tuesday is carrying 17 tonnes of medical and other relief supplies contributed by the JHCO in

cooperation with local Jordanian charity institutions explained Dr. Abbadi, who said that it was sent upon the directives of His Royal Highness Crown Prince Hassan and the Jordanian government.

The shipment emphasises the Kingdom's desire to rally support of Muslim communities and provide them with humanitarian aid, said Dr. Abbadi.

Jordan has dispatched shipments of relief aid to Somalia, Iraq, Egypt, Bangladesh, Pakistan, Bosnia-Herzegovina, Sudan and the Chechen-Ingush republics when they were facing difficult times in view of natural disasters or in the wake of conflicts.

Prince Hassan tours rural communities Encourages development and praises farmers

IRBID (Petra) — His Royal Highness Crown Prince Hassan, the Regent, has urged rural communities in the northern regions of Jordan to expand and upgrade their voluntary work and involve the youth sector in all voluntary endeavours.

Each and every Jordanian citizen should consider himself a partner in shouldering responsibility for his country's development, Prince Hassan said during a tour of Irbid governorate Monday.

For decentralisation, we ought to transcend personal and individual interests and embark on collective action on the part of the local councils in matters that can benefit the whole community," said Prince Hassan at a meeting held at Deir Abi Saeed, the first stop on his tour.

The Regent toured the Bani Kinaneh and Northern Jordan Valley as well as the Taybeh districts in the Irbid Governorate and was given an enthusiastic welcome by the local inhabitants who cheered and national dances.

The Prince took time to chat with farmers involved in ploughing their fields and held discussions with notables in the areas he visited.

One group of officials he talked to at a local school in Deir Abi Saeed outlined the various public services and planned projects for



His Royal Highness Crown Prince Hassan amongst the throng in Irbid Tuesday (Petra photo)

the area. The regent visited the village of Tibneh where he inspected archaeological sites and later Taybeh where he met representatives of public organisations to listen to their views and requests. He praised the ongoing construction and agricultural development in the area and called for further cooperation among the neighbouring villages.

"As we pass through a critical stage in our life, Jordanians in

general and the youth sector in particular are called on to double their efforts and enhance their cooperation towards attaining accomplishments at all levels," said Prince Hassan. After listening to an outline of the services, the Regent moved on to northern Shuneh where he inspected a tourist project and addressed a rally of local inhabitants mostly farmers. He said that the meeting will be only one in a long chain of meetings in the future.

Urging everyone to increase

their efforts towards achieving further progress, Prince Hassan said that farmers ought to be involved in decision making. Non participation by the farmers in matters related to agriculture is a negative aspect that should end, said the Prince.

The Regent suggested the organisation of agricultural fairs and the convening of a general conference by farmers and agronomists to discuss means of overcoming obstacles impeding development.

Parliament members present views on 1993 budget along with their demands

The following are extracts from speeches made by Lower House of Parliament members Tuesday:

Deputy Ali Al Faqir Amman



Deputy Faqir called on the ministry of finance to consult with the deputies on the needs of their constituencies before finalising the budget, so that deputies will not have to explain their constituencies needs time and time again. He demanded that the government expand the ring road linking the Pepsi Cola factory and Qawaisme Customs Department. He also called for improving the situation of the refugee camps in Jabal Hussein and Mahatta.

Deputy Ata Shahwan Amman



Deputy Shahwan praised the 1993 budget saying that it tackled several subjects, including unemployment and poverty, however, it could not achieve equity for all since some of the projects are concentrated in certain areas at the expense of others. He called for strengthening the agricultural sector, describing it as the nerve centre of the Jordanian economy. He called on the government to adopt an effective agricultural policy and to support the Ministry of Agriculture to enable it carry out agricultural reform plans. He criticised the manner through which the National Aid Fund has dealt with the poverty problem, saying that the method was neither successful nor fair.

Deputy Imteir Al Bustanji Karak



Deputy Bustanji called for institutionalising general policies in the areas of health and education, and for directing education to meet the labour market needs. He also called for creating a nursing college at Mutah University and for speeding up work on the construction of Karak hospital. Mr. Bustanji called for allocating funds for constructing agricultural roads in Karak governorate. He called on the government to direct special attention to the south and to deal with the problems of poverty and unemployment. He suggested the creation of a fund to be financed through profits achieved by the major companies, based in the south.

Deputy Ibrahim Al Ghababshah Tafleh

Deputy Ghababshah called on the government to stop imposing more taxes, especially those introduced by temporary laws, saying that such taxes are adding to the citizens burdens and widening the pockets of poverty in Jordan. The Tafleh deputy urged the government to raise the salaries of army and security forces personnel as well as working and retired civil servants. Describing the 1993 budget as an advanced and unique one, Mr. Ghababshah said it still failed to seriously tackle the problems of unemployment and poverty. "I warn the executive authority and ask it to swiftly move to study the situation as soon as possible and to find the suitable solutions to contain it before it is too late," he said. Mr. Ghababshah criticised the performance of the Development and Employment Fund (DEF) and the National Aid Fund (NAF) and called on the government to hire "the right man for the right place" in the two funds.

Deputy Abdul Munim Abu Zant Amman



Deputy Abu Zant called for easing taxes, increasing allocations of the Ministry of Social Development, and Ministry of Health and establishing more health centres. He called for privatisation of the telecommunications corporation and for establishing a hospital in Jabal Nazzal. He also called on the government to seriously consider the cancellation of evening shifts at the government schools.

Deputy Hamza Mansour Amman

Deputy Mansour voiced support for the Financial Committee's report, and stressed the need to control prices and reconsider the criteria followed in filling public posts. He also voiced support for demands made by the Islamic bloc in the House. Mr. Mansour called on the government to appoint more employees at mosques, saying that many mosques have only one employee whose duties include leading and calling for the prayers among other things. The Muslim Brotherhood Deputy called for establishing schools in the areas of Abu Alanda, Al Raqim, and Umm Qaseer and to establish a hospital in Sahab area south of Amman.

Deputy Yusef Khasawneh Irbid

Deputy Khasawneh called for finding a solution to the unemployment problem, supporting the health sector, particularly private sector doctors through floating health insurance plans. He criticised government officials for condoning favouritism in appointments, and he called for giving the financial audit and control departments a broader role.

Deputy Ahmad Al Kafaween Karak



Deputy Kafaween warned the rising number of the unemployed in Karak Governorate and complained of nepotism and tribalism in filling vacant government posts. He also called for giving due attention to infrastructure projects in the governorate and expanding Mu'ta University. Mr. Kafaween stressed the importance of raising the salaries of army and government employees and linking all villages in the governorate with electric power at reasonable costs.

Deputy Daoud Qojak Amman

Deputy Qojak said he was surprised that the financial committee described the draft budget as a step in the right direction. He said the budget depended heavily on internal financing, mainly by increasing taxes and thus increasing commodity prices every now and then. The financial committee ignored the fact that "financial reform does not come from an administrative reform first," he said. The Muslim Brotherhood Deputy called for decentralisation, holding municipal elections and expanding infrastructure projects. He also called for exempting beneficiaries from the Abu Nsair housing project from interest rates due on their monthly installments.

Deputy Fawzi Tameh Balqa



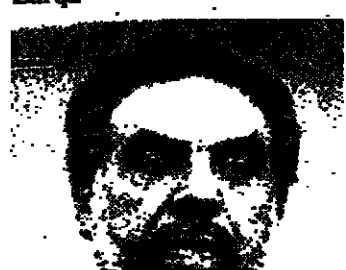
Dr. Tameh called on the government not to impose any new taxes nor to increase the existing ones in order to enhance the country's financial resources. Such enhancement could be made through curtailing current expenditure without touching capital expenditure, he said. He called for establishing a higher council for education, culture and science, to ensure coordination and integration between the various sources of culture, education and information.

Deputy Ibrahim Khreisat Balqa

Deputy Khreisat called the government to address unemployment problems in the governorate, and for the best utilisation of arable land. He also called for increasing salaries of government employees and for building more hospitals and health centres. He called for the establishment of sport and cultural clubs, and the conversion of Salt Community college into a faculty attached to the University of Jordan.

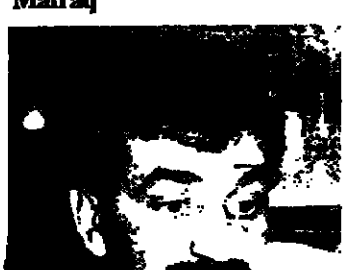
dan. He said that special attention should be directed to the proper maintenance of mosques and holy sites.

Deputy Ziad Abu Mahfouz Zarqa



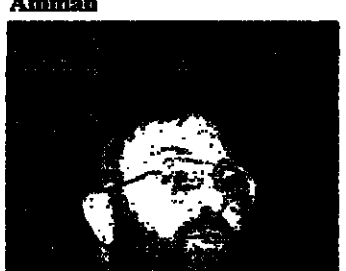
Deputy Abu Mahfouz pressed the government to continue subsidising basic food stuffs and not to impose new taxes. He also stressed the need to embark on implementing developmental and infrastructure projects by the beginning of the year and fill vacant posts as early as possible to solve the problem of unemployment. He urged the government to study the prices of cars and their spare parts and to find solutions to poverty through increasing the allocations for the National Aid Fund and the Development and Employment Fund.

Mohammad Abu Aleem Mafrag



Deputy Aleem called on the government to increase salaries of public servants and pay special attention to the development of small governorates. He also called for increasing the allocations of the village and municipal councils, particularly Mafrag municipality. Finally he called for an industrial revolution, capable of turning Jordan into a first rate industrial country.

Deputy Laith Shubeilat Amman



Deputy Shubeilat bitterly attacked Jordan's agreement with the International Monetary Fund (IMF). He said that the IMF agreement with Jordan was partly to blame for some of the ills plaguing the country economically and socially. He also expressed dismay over the failure on the part of the government and parliament to hold to account those

who had been in government office and were regarded by many as responsible for the country's debts. He said it was due to these officials, policies that the country had sunk into deep poverty and was faced with the IMF agreement which is not solving the Kingdom's problems. The IMF, he said, was like a noose around the Jordanian people's necks and it seems that they are destined to face strangulation. In the light of the situation, the deputy said, all the promises given to the deputies and political groups about attaining prosperity and a higher social standards would never be fulfilled.

Deputy Mohammad Al Azaideh Madaba



Deputy Azaideh called for modernising the administrative system and for entrusting the civil service commission with the entire responsibility for recruitments. He demanded that Madaba district be promoted to a governorate and a hospital should be built. Mr. Azaideh also called for converting Amman-Madaba road into a two-lane high-way and for constructing agricultural roads. He called on the government to increase the allocations for the National Aid Fund to Madaba district.

Deputy Mohammad Muarar North Badia



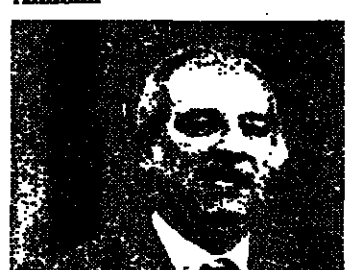
Deputy Muarar stressed the need for finding successful solutions to the unemployment problem, saying that solutions have so far been unsuccessful. He called for directing special attention to the agriculture sector and the setting up of strategic industries. He called on the government to increase staff salaries and to ensure the necessary allocations to meet essential basic services. He demanded that the level of education in North Badia be improved, and that a military hospital be established in Mafrag.

Deputy Nayef Abu Tayeh Southern Badia Region

Deputy Abu Tayeh commended the draft budget describing it as one "which has overcome all obstacles placed in its way" but he voiced reservations about some of its points. He lauded the performance of Minister of Social Development Amin Mashagbeh who came under fire by other House members for allegations

that he misused his office for electoral purposes. He also thanked the Jordan Phosphate Mines Company and its director general for providing job opportunities for citizens in the badia region.

Deputy Fares Al Nabulsi Amman



Deputy Nabulsi praised the budget, saying it reflected the government's serious intentions to achieve self-sufficiency. In a joint statement with Deputy Abdul Karim Al Dughmi from Mafrag constituency, both deputies voiced concern about the educational system, saying that it was unable to fix the right time for mid term and final term examinations, nor was it able to benefit from international development. They criticised the Ministry of Interior for denying licences to some political parties at the time of supposed political pluralism. They called on the government to pressure the interior ministry into reconsidering its decision on licensing political parties, and called on the government to enable the citizens of Amman governorate to elect their mayor, similar to what is going on in other parts of the country. They criticised the government for condoning favouritism in the appointment of people, particularly in posts at the diplomatic corp and governors.

Deputy Mahmoud Hweimeel Karak



While praising the efforts of the government to deal with the numerous problems plaguing the country, deputy Hweimeel called for further measures to help Jordan become self sufficient. In this context, the deputy criticised the government's failure to support local stock breeders, accusing the government of giving more attention and subsidies to imported meat rather than encouraging local production. The deputy was also critical of the agricultural policy of Jordan and calling for further agricultural development services to help the farmers with their work. He also called for farming requirements facilities to be available at reasonable prices and he urged the government to process the extra agricultural produce through canning factories.

Deputy Ahmad Owaidi Al Abbadi Amman



Deputy Abbadi slammed the 1993 draft budget for being "incomprehensive" and for treating the citizens' pockets as a source of cash for the treasury although it is at the expense of their living standards. "The draft budget did not take into consideration the negative aspects of the economic formula since, according to it, the rich will become richer and the poor poorer, thus undermining the national security," he said. It also did not concentrate on investments, adding that creating jobs in government departments does not solve unemployment.

Deputy Mohammad Abu Faris Sweileh

Deputy Abu Faris attacked the government's educational, pricing and financial policies. He said that Jordan seems to be more and more reliant on foreign aid which endangers the political independence and sovereignty of the country. He said that if the government was serious about solving unemployment and poverty. There would not be such poor allocations in the 1993 fiscal budget to such sectors of society. Deputy Abu Faris said that tens of thousands of university graduates find themselves in the street. Furthermore, the deputy criticised the criteria employed in giving students seats at state owned universities he said that students with higher grades are being left out while many of those given seats have support from high places.

Deputy Mansour Murad Amman



Deputy Murad dwelt on the economic restructuring programme which Jordan is implementing following an agreement with the International Monetary Fund (IMF). He said that in the past year, Jordan witnessed a boom in the construction sector which automatically led to a reduction in the volume of unemployment. But he said that the construction boom caused by the return of large number of expatriates, was not due to the implementation of the IMF agreement as the government had claimed. Deputy Murad said that the IMF agreement would have a negative impact on the national economy since it tends to end the state's control over economic development. This policy has already led

to a widening of the gap separating the rich from the poor and increased the sector which lives under the poverty line, said the deputy. He urged the government to deal with the soaring cost of living, refrain from imposing new taxes which largely affect limited income groups, and to act independently from the IMF agreement that had led to numerous social and economic problems in the country. Deputy Murad said that he opposed the draft budget in its present form because he said it would eventually lead to what he called social explosion.

Deputy Nawaf Al Khawaldeh Mafrag

Deputy Khawaldeh confined his speech to demands and requests for improving conditions in his constituency. He demanded that the government build agricultural roads in the Mafrag region, and supply water to various villages in the region. He also urged the government to increase the allocations for the needy people of Mafrag region in the National Aid Fund (NAF).

Tanker

(Continued from Page 1)

that several seals had been spotted coated in oil and oil could be smelled three kilometres downwind of the tanker.

The ship's management company, B and H Ship Management, dispatched an emergency response team to the area and retained Smit, the Dutch-based leading ocean salvage company, to assist the tanker.

"We regret that this incident occurred," the company's chief executive, Michael Hudner, said in a statement. "However, we are working to minimise the danger of pollution and we are cooperating fully with the British authorities whose response to this incident has been outstanding."

Greenpeace sent one of its ship which had been documenting fisheries in the North Sea to the scene.

Greenpeace spokesman Paul Horsman predicted only 10 per cent of the spilled oil could be recovered given the extreme weather conditions.

"The weather is of such severity that no containment or cleanup action can be contemplated at present. The council's emergency cleanup team are ready to begin to clean up as soon as the weather improves," said a spokesman for the Shetland Islands Council.

The 85,000 tonnes of oil aboard the Braer works out to at least 24.6 million gallons depending on the type of oil.

The largest oil spill in history was in July 1979 when 300,000 tonnes, about 86 million gallons, spilled off Trinidad and Tobago.

The Exxon Valdez, which went aground March 24, 1989, spilled almost 11 million gallons of oil — the worst incident in U.S. history.

Last month, a Greek tanker ran aground off the coast of northwestern Spain, spilling 21.5 million gallons of crude oil.

News of the oil spill initially pushed crude prices about five cents a barrel higher early Tuesday on the international petroleum exchange, but the price soon drifted lower.

About 22,500 people live on the 16 inhabited islands in the chain of 100 islands which make up the Shetlands.

Jordan Times

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Thinking about 1995

IN THE aftermath of the signing of the new START II agreement it might appear that the two largest nuclear weapon states have striven far on the long march aimed at fulfilling their obligation, under the 1968 Treaty on the Non-Proliferation of Nuclear Weapons (NPT), to work towards substantive nuclear disarmament. The NPT is up for review in 1995 and, at that time, those states which agreed to enter under the treaty's terms as non-nuclear weapons possessors will judge the fidelity of the nuclear weapon states to their NPT obligations. That judgement will be important in determining whether and how long the NPT will be extended.

We, here in Jordan, have been pointing to one major weakness which works against NPT extension: The continued overlooking of the problem of known nuclear arms possessors by their powerful patrons. One nuclear weapons-equipped state in particular, namely Israel, has been allowed to escape pressure to sign the NPT — even as its illicit weapons programme contributes to regional destabilisation and a costly arms build-up.

Yet a second serious problem also lurks behind the glitter and clinking of glasses in the Grand Palace of the Kremlin. The continued economic demoralisation of the former Soviet states threatens to create conditions world-wide which could render the NPT unworkable and even more impotent than at present.

Without economic stabilisation of the nuclear armed states of Kazakhstan, Belarus, Ukraine and Russia, a whole Pandora's Box of proliferation problems will be opened. Thousands of scientists, technicians, "special weapons" trained military personnel and weapons designers are sinking in the economic and social morass of the former Soviet Union. In addition, the region is littered with nuclear reactors capable of enriching uranium to the level required for making weapons. The need for cash, mixed with the present collapse in the system of accounting and control, provides incentives for entrepreneurship of an unwanted kind — a bizarre nuclear bazaar.

While the Bush administration deserves credit for the two START agreements, it has been roundly condemned by such luminaries in American politics as former President Richard Nixon, Chairman of the Senate Armed Services Committee Sam Nunn and the ranking Republican on that committee, Richard Lugar, for an inability to provide sufficient attention to or funds for the stabilisation of the economies of nations which still possess weapons of mass destruction.

There is some hope that the Clinton administration will avoid this problem. The appointment of Les Aspin to the post of secretary of defence as well as the large number of experienced ex-Carter administration foreign policy advisers bodes well for arms control and non-proliferation.

The Democratic White House and Congress, working together, can be expected to support increased aid to the ex-Soviet states, continue the nuclear test ban and discontinue the warhead modernisation programme which, while it has its safety aspects, was primarily aimed at developing smaller nuclear weapons for use in tactical situations.

Such policies should help to stabilise the situation in the former Soviet Union and ensure that the 1995 review occurs under favourable circumstances. Harsh economic adjustment breeds social discontent and instability even if its long term benefits seem worthwhile. But it is almost axiomatic that states with enough nuclear megatonnage to make the rubble bounce on a world scale ought to be allowed adjustment under smoother social conditions. New thinking is indeed in order.

ARABIC PRESS COMMENTARIES

AL RA'I daily discussed the question of the evictions and the futile attempts on the part of individual countries to repatriate them and to force the Israelis to implement UN Security Council resolutions. Instead of taking immediate measures to repatriate the 400 evictees and stop altogether the ongoing atrocities exercised against the Palestinians, the world community is merely discussing supplying the exiled people with meals and arguing which party, Lebanon or Israel, should do that, added the paper. While individual countries, like France, or organisations, like the Red Cross, are trying to ensure the provision of food to the Palestinians, Arab countries suffice themselves with issuing statements of condemnation of Israel's actions without taking any meaningful step to ensure the return of the expelled people, the paper continued. It said that what the Arabs should do to counter the Rabin government's moves in this crisis is to demand the repatriation of the evictees if the Arab delegations are to resume their meetings with the Israeli delegations in Washington. This demand on the Arab side can force Israel to implement Security Council Resolution 799 which ordered Israel to return the exiled Palestinians to their homes, added the daily. The paper said that should Israel comply with this demand, the way will be open for pressing it to respect and implement the other U.N. resolutions on the Palestine problem. But, the paper said, should Israel reject the Arab demand, it would appear clearly that it is not willing to contemplate the implementation of the other resolutions on which the peace process has been based.

Sawt Al Shaab daily bitterly criticised an article in Al Siyassah daily, of Kuwait, which announced that it is the Palestinians and the Iraqis who are the enemies of the Kuwaiti people and not Israel. This is a very serious development and should be examined carefully by the Arab countries in general and the Arab League in particular since it calls for a complete change in pan-Arab strategy, said the daily. It is not strange to hear such a statement from Al Siyassah Editor Ahmad Jarallah who had made a visit to Israel and demanded a normalisation of relations between the Arabs and Israel but we consider this as dangerous since it tends to cause more splits among the Arab states, the paper said. The Arab masses realise that the Kuwaitis have failed to do anything meaningful to help the Palestinians; on the contrary, they took steps to cause them further sufferings, added the daily.

Economic Forum

The rigidity of fiscal targets

By Dr. Abdallah Malki

In the five-year period, starting from the beginning of 1988 to the end of 1992, the cost of living index rose by 75 per cent, reflecting mainly the devaluation of the Jordanian dinar. This index is the best available measure of inflation in Jordan.

During the same period, the average nominal wage rose by no more than 15 per cent to 25 per cent. In other words, the purchasing power of the wages and salaries of various employees has been eroded by 50 per cent. The government has failed to compensate them for this erosion.

And there have been very good reasons for that. The budget of the central government has been in the red all this period so it cannot afford to give a pay raise. Moreover, the economic adjustment programme calls for cutting the fiscal deficit in absolute terms and as a percentage of gross domestic product. Obviously, Jordan faces a socio-economic dilemma here: it is only fair to increase wages but that will violate the imperatives of the economic adjustment process, as defined by the International Monetary Fund (IMF).

Phasing out a budget deficit can be achieved through compressing public expenditures or boosting revenues. There is almost a consensus that these expenditures are not compressible any more without jeopardising certain economic, social and administrative basics. This is probably why the emphasis has been put on

increasing revenues to narrow the budget gap, especially through tax hikes.

But taxes are also not increaseable beyond a certain limit known, technically, as the taxable capacity. There are academic evidence and practical signs that taxes in Jordan have already been pushed beyond that limit. The trouble is that phasing out our budget deficit calls for more tax increases which will strain the nerves of the economy and tax-payers who are already badly hit by the above mentioned erosion of their real incomes.

We do not know how the government thinks and how it is going to tackle the problem emanating from reaching a point where expenditures are not compressible and revenues are not increaseable, given its commitments towards the IMF under the economic adjustment programme on the one hand and its obligations towards limited-income groups on the other.

However, this combination provides conclusive evidence that the part of the adjustment programme which relates to the budget deficit is rigid, very rigid in fact. To reasonable planners, such rigidity necessitates a reconsideration of the fiscal targets as to relax them in the way of accepting higher levels of the fiscal deficit (as a ratio of GDP) and prolonging the fulfilment period. This argument should be spelled out to the IMF people in as forceful terms as possible unless, of course, our policy-makers are willing

to ignore, to the bitter end, the ramifications of wage freezes.

If the fiscal targets are not to be adjusted, there will be two alternatives. First, to boost the external revenues of the government through more foreign grants and, as the last resort, through internal or external loans. Second, to rationalise imports of (goods and services) through direct controls.

The aim of controlling imports is to bring about a reduction in them as to augment the economic adjustment efforts aimed at remedying the external trade balance. The importance of harnessing the budget deficit in the context of the adjustment process stems, and stemmed, from the fact, or the assumption, that the elimination of the deficit will cut the demand of the public sector for imports, which initially contributed to the imbalance of the external sector of the economy and thereby to our foreign indebtedness. The IMF should have no objection to achieving the same end by different means and thereafter accept different fiscal targets that allow Jordan to cater for socio-economic problems. And mind you: Economic growth and employment are not negatively correlated with budget deficits.

Schemes of economic reform, including adjustment programmes, cannot succeed if they overlook social problems or produce them. The erosion of real wages is one good example of these problems.

Freedom House finds some 'bright spots' in Middle East

By Norma Holmes

WASHINGTON — The global movement towards a more open, integrated and freer world found a "few bright spots" in the Middle East in 1992, but was widely challenged by civil wars, nationalism, and religious and ethnic conflict, according to Freedom House's twenty-second annual "Survey of Freedom in the World."

"Throughout the Middle East this year there were contradictory trends of liberalisation and repression," although more than half the world has now adopted democratic political systems, according to the survey.

The report, which covers 186 nations and 60 territories, does not equate democracy with freedom, however. "By the beginning of next year there will likely be 31 democracies where substantial human rights violations occur every day," says R. Bruce McColl, executive director of the New York-based fifty-year-old non-profit human rights advocacy group.

The survey for 1992 reflects a startling increase in the number of countries where freedom is in a state of change.

In the Middle East, three nations — Kuwait, Oman and the United Arab Emirates — changed categories from "Not Free" to "Partly Free," and Jordan, Lebanon and Yemen improved their numerical ratings while Egypt's rating declined.

Israel, Bangladesh and Nepal were the only three states of the Near Eastern and South Asia region whose average Freedom House ratings were "free."

Among the "partly free" were Egypt, Jordan, Lebanon, Morocco, Oman, Tunisia, Bahrain, the United Arab Emirates, Pakistan, India, Sri Lanka, Kuwait and

Yemen.

Amidst the "few bright spots," the report cited: "Jordan's King Hussein abolished the remnants of martial law in effect since 1967 and allowed the formation of political parties for the first time in thirty-six years. Kuwait re-established its parliament and held elections in October that unexpectedly led to a large victory for parties opposing the Al Sabah family."

And a historic moment occurred in May, the report states, when the first open and fair elections were held in the Kurdish region of Iraq, in which parliamentary seats were divided equally between the Barzani-led Kurdistan Democratic Party and the Talabani-led Patriotic Union of Kurdistan.

The survey found that the United Arab Emirates "marginally improved and the rulers of each emirate now address citizen grievances and opinions in consultative councils. The country also has a budding women's movement."

Morocco adopted a new constitution that enlarges the powers of parliament and places limits on the king, although "King Hassan II continues to play a dominant role in the country's political affairs."

And in December 1991, Oman launched a two-year experimental Majlis Al Shura, or consultative council, with candidates elected popularly in each of the country's 59 provinces.

On the negative side, the report notes that "President Saddam Hussein continues to violate Gulf war ceasefire agreements by attacking Kurds in the north and Shiites in the far south; United Nations Inspector Max van der

Stoel said hundreds of thousands of Shiites, Kurds and political prisoners are in danger of execution and detention...scarcely a day passes without executions or hangings, and there are reports of conflicts between various security forces after a reported coup attempt..."

Egypt, Tunisia, Morocco, Iran, Qatar and Saudi Arabia were among 22 nations reported to have declined in freedom without changing category.

The Freedom House Report states that 1992 was "the bloodiest year in Egypt since the assassination of Anwar Sadat in 1981, as Muslim fundamentalists attacked Coptic Christians in the south." The report also observes that Egypt, "known for its relatively unfettered press...imposed an unprecedented degree of censorship."

The survey found that the Tunisian government continued its crackdown on fundamentalists, especially the banned Al Nahda party. "A very restrictive law on association passed in February 1992 effectively limited the work of the famous Tunisian Human Rights League, which finally chose to disband in June rather than obey the new statute."

In Sudan, "torture, extra-judicial round-ups and detention by the state security apparatus" were reported. In July, the Sudanese government "initiated a massive resettlement programme, destroying nearly 500,000 homes," and reports that "Hasan Al Turabi's movement was training guerrillas sparked a new anti-terrorist legislation."

The Freedom House survey classifies as "not free" Afghanistan, Algeria, Iran, Iraq, Libya,

Mauritania, Qatar, Saudi Arabia, Sudan, and Syria.

Algeria's much heralded transition to a multiparty system collapsed with the cancellation of the second round of elections after the Islamic Salvation Front (FIS) swept in the December polls, the report points out. The military forced the resignation of president Chadli Benjedid and dissolved the National Assembly and the Constitutional Council.

"Virtually all constitutional rights were suspended as the situation deteriorated into a year of assassinations and unrestricted detention."

Although Iran held its first parliamentary elections in four years, the report states that "the Revolutionary Guards were used throughout the year to crush anti-government protests."

And in Saudi Arabia in March, King Fahd "put forth his plan to introduce a consultative council and some type of constitution, while encouraging a crackdown on behaviour deemed anti-Islamic."

In the ratification of territories, the Israeli occupied territories and Kurdish territories in Iraq were designated "partly free," while Kashmir (India) and Western Sahara (Morocco) were listed as "not free."

Freedom House findings are based on reports by human rights organisations, rapporteurs, political leaders, journalists, regional newspapers and magazines.

The 1992-93 yearbook, "Freedom in the World: Political Rights and Civil Liberties," which includes lengthy analyses of each country and territory, will be available from Freedom House in March 1993 — United States Information Agency.

LETTERS

Of whales and men

To the Editor:

It was not too long ago that a couple of whales made a wrong turn and ended up trapped beneath the Arctic ice in the North Pole. Major networks picked up the story and transmitted the tale of the poor whales whose lives were in danger, around the world. The response was amazing. Major western governments immediately sent teams of experts to save the whales. Food was flown in, medicine was provided, equipment was sent and millions of dollars were spent to ensure that the lives of the whales were spared. Similar incidents concerning whales, dolphins, zebras, ducks, elephants and various other animals have captured the hearts, minds and pockets of powerful western nations who rushed to save the day.

In December 1992, four-hundred and fifteen Palestinians were banished without trial to no-man's land on the Lebanese-Israeli border, without shelter, water or medicine. The story was picked up by major networks but world response was weak. None of the western governments who have rushed to the scene when other mammals were in danger were to be seen. If the 415 Palestinians left to die in no-man's land were any other species, but what they are, the western world would have done the impossible to help them. However, since they are only "Palestinian Arabs" the western world feels that their lives are not an urgent enough matter to require immediate action.

As a result, the response was to simply issue resolutions and strongly worded condemnations. In the meantime, 415 human beings wait without food, water and shelter for the meaningless resolutions to take effect. Therefore, I think that if these expellees renounce the name of homo sapiens and decide to belong to the category of "other mammals," maybe their rights to life would be sacred enough to merit immediate attention.

Dr. Aida Dabbas,
Amman.

Why increase taxes?

To the Editor:

There is a proposed motion to increase the importation taxes on a large number of commodities and products imported into Jordan. In my view, the basic concept of raising taxes is to increase the revenues of the government and to pay for the debt that it is accumulating.

It seems to me that there is not one person in the government able to tackle the huge amounts of wasted expenditure within the government and to redirect this financial resource to the new areas of concern, instead of raising taxes once again.

The present tax structure is more than adequate to meet the demands of the government which, incidentally, we all support. As a simple example, there are laws that permit a certain government public servant to issue instructions to destroy millions of documents that are not needed due to age and are obsolete. From what I know, there seems to be a person to take a decision to build new storage areas and waste taxpayers' money. But there is no person who is willing to take the decision to destroy the millions of papers that are accumulating, and to save this wasted money.

This is only a simple example that shows how if the proper, educated decisions were taken, the government would save millions; instead of us, the private sector, which have become the milking cow, continuing to pay the price.

I urge the Parliament and the government, in good faith, to halt this idea of raising taxes once again and do the right thing by cutting unnecessary expenditures.

Wajih Murad,
Amman.

In the wrong cup

To the Editor:

In reference to your article "Ancient cup found in the Jordan Valley" (Jordan Times, January 4, 1993), I would like to point out the last sentence which read:

"The most important object found at the site is an animal born which has been carefully cut to represent a cup."

As an art historian, I was not aware that people in antiquity cut up animals to represent cups. I think the sentence ought to read: "The most important object found at the site is a cup, in the shape of a horn, (probably a rhyton) carefully cut to represent an animal."

I beseech you to pay more attention to archaeological articles, since this field is the true wealth of our country.

Furthermore, we the readers are more interested to know details of the finds rather than who submitted what report to whom.

Please make use of your power as propagators of knowledge among the public. It is a very necessary service.

Nelly Lama,
Amman.

The Jordan Times welcomes letters and contributions from its readers on any subject they wish to tackle. Letters intended for publication, however, should contain the writer's full name and preferably address as well. Names can be withheld only upon request and under special circumstances. Letters are subject to editing. The newspaper is not responsible for the return of unused manuscripts.

كنا مع الامم

Agreement eludes Somali warlords

(Continued from Page 1)

The secretary-general downwards, have failed time and again to demonstrate an understanding of the intricate problems in Somalia. The most recent example is the present conference.

Dr. Ghali refused to identify Gen. Aided as an obstacle to the progress of the talks, which set out with the modest agenda of persuading some 15 factions to agree on the reconciliation conference.

"If you want to find a solution, you have to discuss with the good boys and the bad boys," he said. Gen. Aided's faction said the United Nations had invited what it called "individual dissidents and splinter groups" to the talks and was "too meddling" in its dealings with Somali leaders.

Aides of Gen. Aided's bitter rival Ali Mahdi Muhammad said a series of meetings between factions Tuesday afternoon had ended in deadlock.

Aden Abdullah Noor, chairman of the Somali Patriotic Movement, said all factions but Gen. Aided's were nearing agreement on a ceasefire to be followed by withdrawal into the home areas of their respective clans.

Gen. Aided's faction, which holds large territories outside its homeland, rejected the proposal, arguing for a ceasefire in place.

Exchange sheds new light into Ma'an riots

(Continued from Page 1)

(which could) lead to unnecessary loss of life.

Mr. Rifai's government resigned a week after the riots started and secretary-general of different ministries ran day-to-day affairs until Sharif Zeid Ben Shaker was appointed prime minister on April 29.

In his letter to Al Rai, Mr. Moumni said he was waiting for the drivers at the governorate building at 8:30 in the morning but that the "big surprise was when the drivers, instead of coming to the building, went to the 'comprehensive secondary school' for boys and brought the students out forcefully, then went to another school and collected the students there in the same manner and led a march to the governorate building."

"I asked the security forces not to stand in the way of the march and to avoid any confrontation in the hope that I would be able to deal with the problem and solve it amicably," Mr. Moumni said.

"When the marchers arrived at the police station, which is only metres away from the governorate building, they tried to force their way into the police station and that is when the clashes began with the police forces which by that time had received orders from the governor to protect the lives of the citizens."

"In short, I want to stress a reality that should be realised by Mr. Arar first and all other officials and citizens second," Mr. Moumni said. "No-one came to see me in my office, or my home, or any other place to raise the decision by the cabinet to raise the prices of fuel, not before the riots nor on that Tuesday morning when the problems started."

"All that was rumoured about

me of not meeting with the drivers, of mistreating them and imprisoning some of them or that I closed the doors of the governorate in their faces were only rumours aimed at giving credence to the irresponsible behaviour of some of the drivers," Mr. Moumni added.

The story, as told by Mr. Moumni, was further verified by Brig. Zureiqi who also complained in his letter that Mr. Arar failed to "verify the truth before falling victim to rumours which at that time also accused him of being behind the problems in Ma'an."

"Instead of defending himself against the string of rumours against him, he went and threw these accusations at others and at these same government institutions which he at one time headed," Brig. Zureiqi said in a direct reference to Mr. Arar's former post as minister of interior who, among his other duties, is in charge of Jordan's governorates.

"The security apparatus, which did its job as best as it could, was careful to be accurate and to operate within the law, did not rely on rumours or it would have accused Mr. Arar of instigating the riots as was rumoured at that time," the retired officer said.

Both Mr. Moumni and Brig. Zureiqi pointed to an incident on the day before the riots began when five Ma'an drivers told the police department that 42 drivers who shuttle between that city and the capital will not take passengers at the going rate of JD 1.70.

According to both former officials, a permission was given to the drivers to charge JD 2 until such a time when the minister of transportation would issue a new list of prices compatible with the increase in fuel prices.

Deputies expected to endorse budget

(Continued from Page 1)

the people and serve the interests of the countries that control it.

Coming out of his silence since release from jail under a General Amnesty issued by His Majesty King Hussein in November, Deputy Leith Shbeilat (Amman) launched the strongest attack on the IMF saying the government strictly followed its instructions in preparing the draft budget.

The independent Islamist deputy was released under the pardon in November after the State Security Court found him guilty of sedition among other charges and sentenced him to 20 years of hard labour.

"The fund is one of the most dangerous tools of the world system for imposing absolute economic liberalism... and abolishing customs and tariffs... which only serves the interests of industrialised countries," said Mr. Shbeilat, who attacked the free market economy in general.

An outspoken Shbeilat said nothing has changed in Jordan since people took to the streets in April 1989 to protest alleged government corruption and price hikes.

In a direct criticism of his colleagues, Mr. Shbeilat said four years after the November 1989 parliamentary elections, the slogans of "democracy is the solution," and "Islam is the solution" seem to have been replaced by the slogan "The (International Monetary Fund) is the solution."

In what he described as the "language of analysis and not threats," Mr. Shbeilat said while people who were responsible for "driving the country into the abyss of indebtedness were not touched; no power succeeded in changing them."

People who were investigating corruption were instead "arrested and taught a lesson by the 'fair judiciary,'" a lesson that they will not forget," said Mr. Shbeilat in a speech that noticeably captured

the attention of all deputies and ministers present.

"People can now (rest assured) after the arrest of the source of real 'conspiracy,'" he said in a cynical, indirect reference to his arrest and conviction.

Before his arrest, Mr. Shbeilat was the head of a parliamentary committee charged with investigating alleged government corruption.

Mr. Shbeilat demanded that government publicise its agreement with IMF and the confidential letter of intent, "which is unknown to those who are supposed to be the guardians of national sovereignty: The Deputies, and the majority of ministers who ignore something called collective responsibility of the cabinet."

Politics dominated the speeches of other deputies, with Amman representative Fares Al Nabulsi castigating the Ministry of Interior for "acting with martial law mentality."

He said the ministry exceeded its mandate in denying licences to three political parties, acting like an independent government. He called on government to reverse the ministry's decision.

The ministry has refused to license the Arab Baath Socialist Party, the Jordan Communist Party and the Jordan People's Democratic party.

Mr. Nabulsi also demanded that national elections be held in Amman because it "was unnatural" that the capital is denied this right while other cities in the country enjoy it.

The role of the Amman Municipality is assumed by the Amman Governorate Council, which is appointed by the government.

Tuesday's session started at 10.30 a.m. and lasted till 6 p.m. when Cabinet members and the House speakers left for the airport to receive King Hussein who returned home from London.

Arab ministers denounce terrorism

(Continued from Page 1)

The broadcast, monitored in Nicosia, said the 21-member Arab League was determined to quash Muslim fundamentalists.

In a reference to Egypt, Algeria and Tunisia, which have been grappling to control anti-government radical Islamic movements, Tehran Radio said some Arab countries were trying to equate terrorism with Muslim fundamentalism.

"It is possible that in some countries, those who live under egregious oppression, resort to violence. But this reaction does not in any way mean that violence is one of the principal tenets of Islamism," the radio said.

Egypt and Algeria have blamed Iran for funding anti-government fundamentalist movements, a charge denied by Tehran.

The radio warned countries

spoiling for a fight with the fundamentalists to beware.

"Islamic awakening is in the heart of every Muslim individual, and it is impossible to fight thoughts with guns," the radio said.

It taunted Arab countries grappling to control fundamentalism by saying that if they wanted a united strategy against Islam, they need look no further than Israel's policies against the Palestinians.

Algeria, Egypt and Tunisia have also accused Sudan's Islamic government of training and backing the Muslim militants opposing them.

Egypt's interior minister, Mohammad Abdul Halim Musa, who appealed Monday for a combined Arab plan "to protect Islam from those who defame it with crimes of murder and destruction," left a few minutes before the closing session began.

Israel stands firm on expulsions

(Continued from Page 1)

Tuesday to discuss details of his visit.

Israel expelled the group on Dec. 17 for alleged links to Muslim fundamentalist groups that killed five Israeli soldiers as well as Palestinians suspected of helping Israel.

Mr. Ben-Ami said Israel also stood by its decision to allow a one-time delivery of medical aid only if Lebanon let a food convoy through at the same time. The Beirut government refused.

In his letter to Council President Yoshio Hatano of Japan, Dr. Ghali said he was sending a new emissary to the region after Under-Secretary-General for Political Affairs James Johah failed to secure Israel's compliance with the Dec. 18 council resolution demanding the evictions' immediate safe return.

"I regret to have to inform the members of the council that Mr. Johah's mission was unsuccessful. From all that I have heard, I believe this is attributable primarily to Israel's unwillingness to comply with Resolution 799," Dr. Ghali said.

"In view of the gravity of the situation, and before presenting a full report to the Security Council, I feel compelled to make a further effort to find a solution in conformity with the terms set out in Resolution 799," he said.

The Palestinians stranded in

South Lebanon said they were hopeful the new U.N. envoy would arrange their return home.

The 415 evictees shivered through their 19th night at a makeshift tent camp where they are running low on food and medicine and have run out of heating fuel.

Group spokesman Abdul Aziz Al Rantisi hailed as "positive" Dr. Ghali's warning that he might recommend Security Council action to force Israel to take back the evictees.

"I see that the (U.N.) position is more serious than before and I see that Israel will have to comply with international legitimacy," Mr. Rantisi said.

In Beirut, President Elias Hrawi repeated Lebanon's refusal to allow the Palestinians into territory it controls and called their expulsion an aggression against his country.

"Lebanon will not fall into the trap," Mr. Hrawi told parliament. "We do not accept that Lebanon be used as a spearhead of hit against the legitimate rights of our brothers."

"Let whoever created the problem solve it. Lebanon has no responsibility in an action committed by others," he said.

Mr. Hrawi said Lebanon had refused to accept the Palestinians not because it is "against their cause ... but to safeguard Lebanon's sovereignty and independence."

U.S. studies 'options'

(Continued from Page 1)

fighter jets policing the area south of the 32nd Parallel where Iraqi aircraft have been banned. Mr. Fitzwater did not say what types of options under consideration.

But U.S. defence officials, who asked not to be identified, said earlier Tuesday that American officials were concerned that the movement of the missiles might signal an attempt by Iraq to shoot down an American warplane in the area.

U.S. Defence Secretary Dick

Cheney told reporters in an interview Monday that the U.S. aircraft carrier Kitty Hawk was now on station in the Gulf to keep a closer watch on recent Iraqi violations of the southern zone.

Mr. Cheney warned that "it would be a major mistake" for Iraq to think that U.S. President-elect Bill Clinton, who takes office on Jan. 20, would be more reluctant than outgoing President George Bush to demand compliance with post-Gulf war agreements.

Shots fired at tourists in Egypt

(Continued from Page 1)

Security sources in Assiut, 320 kilometres south of Cairo, said police officers escorting the tourists were returning fire directed at the two minibuses from across a canal. They said neither vehicle was hit, and they continued on their way uninterrupted.

But in Cairo, Major General Galal Al Shamy, an Interior Ministry spokesman, said gunfire originated in a small village near around Dairut, a hotbed of Muslim extremist violence north of Assiut. He said it was part of a security operation, not directed at the tourist buses.

The government's Middle East News Agency (MENA) quoted

an interior ministry official as saying the shooting occurred in an exchange of fire between Muslim extremists and pursuing police in the village.

Dairut is 60 kilometres north of the provincial capital, Assiut. The area was the scene of most of Egypt's extremist violence last year, prompting the government to provide armed escorts for much of the southern tourist traffic.

Gen. Shamy said the dragnet around Dairut was to find extremists suspected of involvement in three separate attacks against Christians on Sunday and Monday.

One man died and another was wounded in the attacks.

Muna Kassab Nabil — a remembrance

Muna Kassab Nabil died last Thursday morning at the age of 43, after struggling briefly against what turned out to be a fatal ailment of the heart and lungs. Her death, like her life, left a profound impact on her friends, family, and colleagues.

Most of us, as often happens in life, did not have the opportunity to tell her while she was alive how much we — how much we what? Loved her? Enjoyed her? Appreciated her? Even the sentiments that we felt towards her were not always neatly divisible into standard compartments of human emotion, because she did not lend herself to standardisation or compartmentalisation. Certainly, we loved her, enjoyed her company, valued her friendship, sought out her opinions and advice, laughed at her jokes and occasional sharp comments and constantly marvelled at her almost infinite capacity to care for others, to remember the birthdays of children, the concerns of friends, and the small wishes of the elderly. We admired her capacity to love Jordan and Palestine and her wider Arab identity, while criticising elements in all of them that occasionally annoyed her. We were moved by her and her husband's ability to make their marriage into a routine monument of Christian-Muslim fraternity. She valued the many good things and fine people all around her, but at the same time she did not hesitate to castigate the fools and point out the faults that annoyed her. Few people combined all of these traits in a single, energised human package, as she did.

We realise now, in retrospect, why we mourn her death and cherish her memory. Because above and beyond all the affection and joy we felt towards her, we also admired her and looked up to her — not the cerebral admiration we feel for people

who may achieve the occasional great feat, but the warm admiration we feel for people whose everyday lives are monuments to qualities we would like to command in ourselves. Muna's life was characterised, above all, by the qualities of courage, honesty, and compassion for others. She blended these traits in an uncommon character, that generated uncommon affection.

In retrospect, also, we realise that she was, in fact, a quiet leader whose credibility was borne of her strength of character and strong will. We realise now that her death deprived us of one of the many small anchors that we link together into a support system that makes life at once meaningful, understandable and fun. Leaders are like that, especially the quiet ones. You only fully appreciate them, and miss them terribly, when they are gone.

Many of us are angry that we did not tell Muna all of these things while she was alive — angry at ourselves for not having reciprocated the constant gestures of appreciation and affection that she made to all of her friends, family and colleagues. But then, she probably knew how much we loved her by the silent gestures we made to her and her husband and her family — the little gifts we brought her from our travels, the frequent, brief phone calls to ask a quick question or share a new thought, the willingness to share secrets with her and her alone, the tendency to turn first to her and her husband in a moment of need, the anticipation at telling her the latest political joke, the presents we shared on annual occasions, and the many times we asked her advice on issues that mattered, and a few that didn't. She must have known how we felt about her. Special people always do.

Rami Khoori

103rd U.S. Congress assumes office

(Continued from Page 1)

colleagues, they differed on priorities.

Change was evident not just in the overall numbers, but in the people who will be serving in Congress.

Both chambers will have record numbers of women: Six in the Senate and 47 in the House.

The House also will have 38 blacks and 17 Hispanics, records in both categories. The Senate will have its first black woman since 1978 the first black woman member ever in Democrat Carol Moseley Braun of Illinois; and its first American Indian in more than 60 years, Ben Nighthorse Campbell of Colorado.

Appearing on "CBS This Morning," Democratic newcomers emphasised the need to help the poor and strengthen education and job training programmes. They also supported tax increases, especially on the rich.

"I don't think we ought to shy away from taxes," said Democratic Eva Clayton of North Carolina.

Republicans focused on the need to reduce record federal deficits but stood firm against new tax increases. "The economy is on the right track," said Republican Jay Kins of California, the first Korean-American ever to be elected to Congress. "This is not the time to raise taxes."

CBJ reiterates warning to foreign groups

(Continued from Page 1)

Times Tuesday, Dr. Nabulsi said the CBJ had not given any permission to the IIP to invite investments from Jordanians for projects inside or outside. As such, he said, the project's activities in the Kingdom were illegal and the CBJ was pursuing the matter with the security authorities.

Mr. Ghassini said IIP represented American Muslims and it had various projects in eight American states and five or six Islamic countries.

He asserted that the objective of his advertisements in the local press were "aimed at assessing whether we were wanted here or not rather than inviting investments from Jordanians."

"We found that so many people were interested in our project and hence our plans for a regional office in Amman," he said, adding that all operations of the project were strictly guided by the Islamic concepts of musharaka (partnership) and modaraba (bid-ask).

"None of our operations includes usury (interest) at all at any stage," he said.

However, "if they don't want us here, we will leave," he added.

It was the second known incident where the CBJ warned foreign based groups against soliciting investments from Jordanians in 18 months.

In the earlier episode, a Latin American national of Arab origin came to Jordan in mid-1991 saying he was the chief executive of a Tunis-based "Arab American Bank" and wanted either to buy a

Jordanian commercial bank or set up a new one.

He boasted of a working capital of \$500 million and planned to advertise in the local newspapers offering shares at \$10 each. He described his project as "a people's bank."

The CBJ, which was approached by the man with an unsolicited proposal to buy one of the collapsed Jordanian commercial banks along with its licence, issued two warnings to the public against dealing with him.

Security forces investigated the man and found he had little banking credentials and warned him against continuing his activities in the Kingdom. But that was not the end of the story, according to police sources.

The man had rung up thousands of dinars in telephone bills from his rented villa in Sheimsani in addition to issuing bogus cheques for the rent of the villa. He did not pay for office equipment — computers, photocopiers and facsimile machines etc. — and left at least two of his "employees" in the lurch without paying their salaries for months.

Police arrested him on charges of issuing bogus cheques. And then an additional complaint was filed against him by his Filipina maid who said she was pregnant by him.

The man was detained for almost a year, pending the settlement of the outstanding claims against him, before being released in mid-1992. It was not clear how the cases were settled.

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Financial Markets

Jordan Times in co-operation with Cairo Amman Bank

Currency	New York Close	Tokyo Close
Sterling Pound	1.5005	1.5043
Deutsche Mark	1.6390	1.6370
Swiss Franc	1.3790	1.3778
French Franc	5.5925	5.5813**
Japanese Yen	125.30	125.25
European Currency Unit	1.1905	1.1925**

100 Per 100
European Opening at 3:00 a.m. GMT

Currency	1 MTH	3 MTHS	6 MTHS	12 MTHS
U.S. Dollar	3.31	3.37	3.43	3.68
Sterling Pound	7.25	7.12	6.93	6.62
Deutsche Mark	8.31	8.56	8.25	7.56
Swiss Franc	5.67	5.75	5.56	5.25
French Franc	14.50	13.75	11.50	9.75
Japanese Yen	3.41	3.75	3.62	3.62
European Currency Unit	10.66	10.12	10.00	8.93

Interest: bid rates for amounts exceeding U.S. Dollars 1,000,000 or equivalent.

Precious Metals	U.S. Dollar	Gold/Gm	Silver/Gm
Gold	328.90	6.50	3.65
Silver	3.65		

Central Bank of Jordan Exchange Rate Bulletin

Currency	Bid	Offer
U.S. Dollar	0.691	0.693
Sterling Pound	1.0385	1.0437
Deutsche Mark	0.4219	0.4240
Swiss Franc	0.4674	0.4697
French Franc	0.1236	0.1242
Japanese Yen	0.5512	0.5540
Dutch Guilder	0.3752	0.3771
Swedish Krona	0.0961	0.0966
Italian Lira	0.0432	0.0434
Belgian Franc	0.02047	0.02057

Per 100

Currency	Bid	Offer
Bahraini Dinar	1.8100	1.8250
Lebanese Lira	0.03636	0.0365
Saudi Riyal	0.1835	0.1846
Kuwaiti Dinar	2.2400	2.2800
Qatari Riyal	0.1870	0.1883
Egyptian Pound	0.2080	0.2150
Omani Riyal	1.7650	1.7770
UAE Dirham	0.1870	0.1883
Greek Drachma	0.32445	0.32445
Cypriot Pound	1.4097	1.4297

CAB Indices for Amman Financial Market

Index	3/1/93	Close	4/1/93	Close
All-Share	179.31		180.85	
Banking Sector	130.66		130.22	
Insurance Sector	196.24		196.29	
Industry Sector	244.46		249.16	
Services Sector	245.62		247.13	

December 31, 1990 - 100

LONDON EXCHANGE RATES

LONDON (R) — Following are the buying and selling rates for leading world currencies and gold against the dollar at midsession on the London Foreign Exchange and bullion markets Tuesday.

One U.S. dollar	1.2822/27	Canadian dollar	1.6375/85
	1.6375/85	Deutsche marks	1.8370/90
	1.8370/90	Dutch guilders	1.4820/30
	1.4820/30	Swiss francs	33.60/64
	33.60/64	Belgian francs	5.5870/20
	5.5870/20	French francs	1538/1543
	1538/1543	Italian lire	125.31/36
	125.31/36	Japanese yen	7.2800/900
	7.2800/900	Norwegian crowns	7.0175/275
	7.0175/275	Danish crowns	6.3525/625
	6.3525/625		1.5070/80
One sterling	329.00/329.50		

Jordan's energy ministry works in the dark to come up with new electricity charges

By Samir Shafiq
Special to the Jordan Times

AMMAN — Jordanians hope to receive a few dinars more on their monthly salaries following some flash signs that have emerged on this issue from official and parliamentary sources. But, may be after a salary increase to civil servants this year, Jordanians will have no choice but to cover the large deficit of the Jordan Electricity Authority (JEA) by paying higher charges for electricity.

According to Energy and Natural Resources Minister Ali Abul Ragheb, the government is currently conducting an in-depth and comprehensive study on electricity pricing and the charges will be hiked very carefully, gradually and in the most sensible and fair manner taking into consideration the tight budget of Jordanian households and the interests of industries, traders, farmers and other economic sectors.

"The increases will not be in the next few days. We are now working on a thorough research on the best possible ways to raise electricity charges and the decision will come later from the Prime Ministry," the minister said Monday night without specifying even an approximate time.

Mr. Abul Ragheb revealed this important information after he was pressed by the Jordan Times "to spell it out" having circumvented the issue when he mentioned that JEA would not be privatized because it was operating uneconomically.

"The private sector eyes profitable state-owned entities and JEA cannot be one of them because it has accumulated JD 45 million in losses due mainly to the dinar devaluation and the large amounts JEA pays in debt service," the minister said.

The JEA, which generates and supplies electric power throughout the Kingdom and also distributes electricity in the southern regions and the Jordan Valley, sells the electric power for 31.7 fils per kilowatt hour while incurring 34 fils in production cost per each kilowatt hour.

As such, the minister added,

electricity charges were inadequate and have resulted in the treasury carrying a big subsidy at a time when the government's structural adjustment programme stipulates eliminating, or greatly reducing, all kinds of subsidies.

Mr. Abul Ragheb said that the government had successfully ended in 1991 the subsidies on petroleum products and that it might even collect JD 30 million from 1992 sales of petroleum products.

The government subsidised petroleum products by about JD 33 million in 1990 following four years (1986-1989) during which the government profiled JD 93.4 million, JD 78.6 million, JD 58.8 million and JD 5 million respectively.

Prior to 1986, the treasury subsidised petroleum products by large amounts, the peak of which was in 1982 when the petroleum subsidies reached JD 40.8 million.

The minister, addressing about 250 prominent businessmen and government officials attending the fifth economic forum organised by the Jordanian Businessmen Association, spoke in detail about the following five major areas in the energy sector.

- 1) Oil and petroleum products
- 2) Exploration for oil and natural gas
- 3) Mineral wealth
- 4) Electric power
- 5) Solar and wind energy.

Mr. Abul Ragheb said Jordan's petroleum and gas production constitutes only 3.7 per cent of the Kingdom's primary energy needs. As such, he added, oil is Jordan's largest import item, the bill of which exceeded, in some years, all the income the country had earned from exports.

In 1991, Jordan's oil bill was JD 274 million representing 10 per cent of the Kingdom's gross domestic product or 35 per cent of exports. Oil accounted for 16 per cent of all imports.

The minister highlighted the energy sector from another angle when he mentioned that the accumulated investment in energy

fields amounted to JD 237 million (\$678 million) during the five years (1986-1990). The electricity share was the highest at JD 160 million, or 68 per cent of the total, while investments on oil and gas exploration and production totalled JD 46 million or 19 per cent. Investments on developing refinery operations, transporting, storing and distributing crude oil and petroleum products totalled JD 25 million.

Energy investments over the 1993-1997 period are estimated to rise to a JD 500 million total.

Mr. Abul Ragheb said about JD 275 million would be spent by the JEA to build gas turbines, transformer stations and the second phase of the Aqaba Thermal Power Station with a 260-megawatt generating capacity.

Other investments will include:

- 1) JD 38 million to Amman and Irbid electricity companies.
- 2) JD 27.5 million to electricity 433 small villages under the rural electrification project.
- 3) JD 105 million to build storage for crude oil and petroleum products at the site of the Jordan Petroleum Refinery Co. and at Aqaba and other stations. The money will also finance the purchase of fuel tankers, upgrading some refinery units and developing the tankers' plant.
- 4) JD 84 million for the Natural Resources Authority to finance exploration projects and other geological, geophysical and technical programmes.

The minister reviewed the energy consumption pattern from 1975 until 1991 and noted that during the boom of the 70s Jordan's annual energy consumption growth was about 15 per cent but the growth rate declined to 3.5 per cent a year from 1983 until 1989.

However, Jordan's consumption of primary energy in 1991 amounted to 3,275 million tonnes equivalent of oil (MTEO), one per cent less than in 1990.

In 1992, energy consumption was expected to be 3,670 MTEO, 12 per cent higher than 1991, due to population growth and increased economic activities.

Mr. Abul Ragheb explained



Ali Abul Ragheb

that transportation topped energy consumption in 1991 having recorded 1010 thousand tonnes equivalent of oil (TTEO) followed by electricity companies — 957 TTEO.

The minister calculated that in 1991 the per capita energy consumption was 842 kilograms equivalent of oil and that the figure would most likely be 912 in 1992.

He pointed out that 42 per cent of the Kingdom's total energy consumption went for transportation, 20 per cent for industries, 18 per cent for households and 20 per cent for other economic functions such as farming and commercial.

The minister gave his audience further important figures saying that by the year 2000 Jordan's electricity consumption was projected to reach 2,500 gigawatts hour, up from 2,141 gigawatt hour consumed in 1991.

Estimating 1992 energy consumption to total 3,405 gigawatt hour, he could only provide a breakdown for 1991 when, he said, industries consumed 38 per cent, households 29 per cent, commercial businesses 9.6 per cent and water pumping 17.5 per

cent of the total electricity energy.

According to statistics provided by Mr. Abul Ragheb electricity subscriber number nearly 542,400 households throughout the Kingdom. As such, 95.2 per cent of Jordan's population have access to electrical power.

A step further reveals that per capita electrical consumption in 1991 amounted to 1,041 kilowatt hour, 1.2 per cent less than the 1990 figure. The minister projected the per capita electrical consumption in 1992 to be 1,086 kilowatt hour.

The installed capacity, he said, was 1,030 megawatts in 1991. The Kingdom produced 2,724 gigawatts of power in 1991, the minister said, adding that the annual production was projected at 6,475 gigawatt hour by the year 2000 and 7,404 gigawatt hour by 2001.

Mr. Abul Ragheb outlined to the audience the future plans for his ministry and specifically mentioned the following:

- 1) Setting up a national oil company which would operate on commercial basis to run existing oil and gas production sites and to explore other potential sites.

The minister said that approval to set up the company has been obtained from the prime minister and studies are being prepared to that end.

2) Expanding exploration efforts by the Natural Resources Authority in the Azraq, Al Sarhan, Dead Sea and northern Jordan to better understand the geological situation in those areas.

3) Attracting more international companies to explore for oil and gas.

The minister said that a partnership agreement was signed last year with the Korean Hanbo company which would spend \$17 million during five years of exploration.

He noted that several international companies had been engaged to explore for oil and gas in 1986 and 1987 and that a total of \$77 million were spent by these companies during their exploration projects.

Mr. Abul Ragheb belittled the amount of oil which Jordan currently produces saying that the 55,000 barrels of oil produced in 1991 would not suffice the Kingdom for one day.

However, 1991 gas production from Al Rishah field amounted to 5.5 billion cubic feet (about 118 TTEO) used to generate electric power which contributed to producing 13 per cent of the Kingdom's annual need.

The minister said there has not been yet a solid conviction to extract oil from oil shales due to the current oil prices and the huge investments needed although Jordan has an estimated four billion tonnes of crude oil in those shales.

According to the minister, the solar and wind energy is still not prominent source of energy although, he said, it constitutes a special importance for the future.

He estimated that about 25 per cent of households in Jordan use solar heaters.

Mr. Abul Ragheb pointed out that studies were being conducted at various large-size plants to find ways to save energy and that other measures were being considered to exempt or minimise customs on energy-saving equipment.

Central bank puts pressure on Jordan banks to shape up

AMMAN (R) — Jordan's central bank has told banks to increase their provisions to cover the bad debts among commercial loans worth about 2.2 billion dinars (\$3.2 billion).

The restructuring will pave the way for the banks to write off bad debts worth nearly 400 million dinars (\$588 million), bankers said Tuesday.

The debts piled up during a period of easy credit which led to some bank failures in the late 1980s.

"Some banks have problem loans that are not covered by the necessary provisions and those will have to correct their positions," said Jack Kattan, assistant general manager of Jordan National Bank.

"The central bank does not want to repeat the experience of 1989 and is bent on reducing risks of bank failures," he added. Petra Bank, one of the country's leading institutions, collapsed in 1989 amid charges of fraud.

Under the new rules, banks have until 1995 to bring provisions up to the minimum levels required to meet tougher criteria for evaluating loan collateral. Most of the extra reserve funds are expected to come from pro-

fits. To avoid having to raise enough reserves to cover all their bad loans, they can either liquidate the collateral or write the loans off, bankers said.

"It puts pressure on banks to shape up by strengthening their capital base," said Hani Al Qadi, senior deputy manager of the Arab Jordan Investment Bank. "But it is quite timely, coming when their profits are at record levels. They can afford to make these provisions," he said.

Banks will probably be able to meet the tighter provision requirements because more than 300,000 Jordanians forced to leave Kuwait during the Gulf crisis have generated record profits by bringing home large amounts of low-cost funds.

"The central bank could not have chosen a better time, with banks still dizzy with phenomenal growth in deposits that have doubled in size over the past year," said one banker.

"Now rather than wasting their profits on dividends, they have to put in some of it to clear the past mess," he added. The measures are also designed

to improve the soundness of performing loans through a general provision that ensures more effective assessment of creditworthiness, they said.

Banks may also no longer count as assets accumulated interest on loans after 180 days of non-payment.

They will have to add one to two per cent of the annual increase in their good loans portfolio to the general provisions.

Hani Qaqish, deputy general manager at the Amman Bank for Investments, said that for the first time the rules used performance

as a criterion. Real estate has been the traditional collateral in Jordan's commercial credit policies.

The measures will also improve capital risk management in line with new international rules set by the Bank for International Settlements (BIS).

Jordan's 20 licensed banks have total assets of around 6.3 billion dinars (\$9.2 billion). Deposits, including those in foreign currency, are estimated to have soared to 4.8 billion dinars (\$7 billion) at the end of 1992 against 2.6 billion (\$3.8 billion) before the Gulf crisis.

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Bosnia mediators in last-ditch effort

GENEVA (AP) — International mediators Tuesday headed for a meeting with hard-line Serb President Slobodan Milosevic in a last-ditch push to bring peace to Bosnia-Herzegovina.

The mediators' spokesman said international patience was running out after Bosnian Serbs refused Monday to abandon their demand for their own state in Bosnia, blocking peace talks in Geneva.

"International pressure certainly is very strong to see a final result here and not to have these talks drag on indefinitely," spokesman Fred Eckhard said. "Our time is running out."

Mr. Milosevic, widely seen as the mastermind of armed Serb land grabs in Croatia and Bosnia over the past 18 months, was due to meet mediators Cyrus Vance and Lord Owen on Wednesday in Belgrade.

They want to try to persuade Mr. Milosevic to put pressure on Bosnian Serb leader Radovan Karadzic to accept their peace plan. If they succeed, there may be a breakthrough when peace talks resume next Sunday.

The mediators have backed the Muslim-led government's insistence on keeping Bosnia a single state. Mr. Eckhard said Tuesday there would be "no give on that issue."

In an interview Tuesday with the Associated Press, Bosnian President Alija Izetbegovic said he fears war will continue in the ex-Yugoslav republic even though he agreed to sit down with enemies he regards as war criminals.

Mr. Izetbegovic said he broke his vow never to negotiate with Bosnian Serb leaders when he met them face-to-face over the weekend for the first time since the Bosnian civil war began nine months ago.

"We had to overcome a lot of emotions and to sit at the same table with those we consider murderers," he told the AP in Geneva, adding that the meeting was necessary to give peace a chance.

"And if that doesn't work, I'm afraid the continuation of war is inevitable," he said.

If the next round of talks with leaders of Bosnia's three warring sides produces no movement, Mr. Vance and Lord Owen will report to the U.N. Security Council, naming the faction responsible for the deadlock.

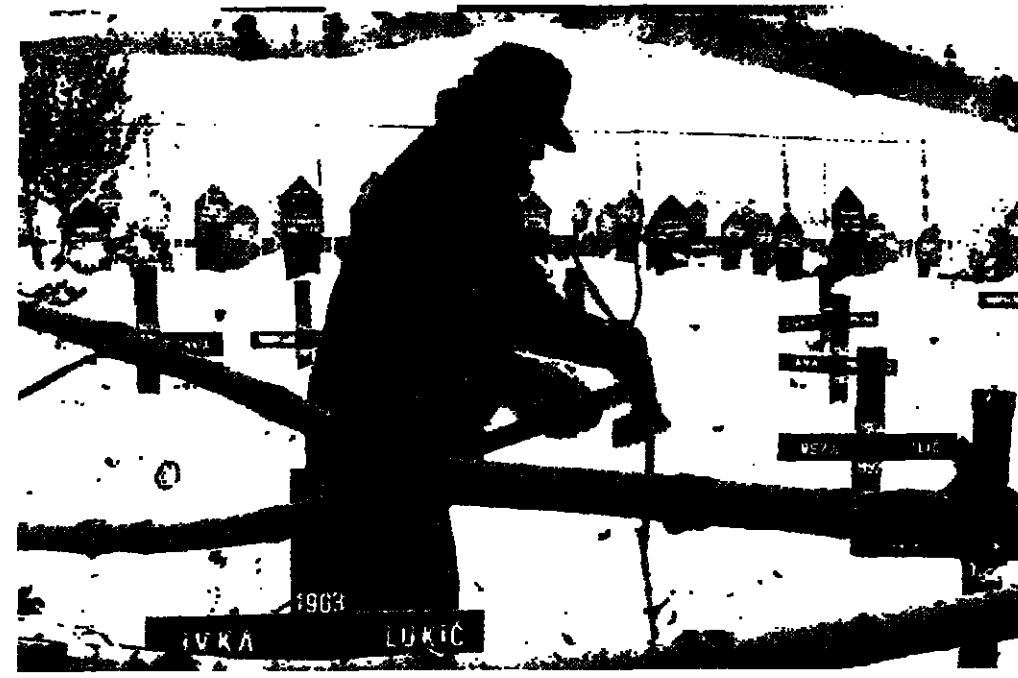
Pressure for outside military intervention in Bosnia then is expected to increase.

U.S. officials are trying to get agreement on a new U.N. Security Council resolution threatening to shoot down Serb military aircraft that defy the "no-zone" in Bosnia imposed last October.

Islamic countries are meeting next week to decide whether to back further help, understood to include weapons, for Bosnia's Muslim-led government.

Lord Owen told British Radio Tuesday he believes imposing a truce and a political settlement on Bosnia is better than trying to "deal on the fringes" with partial solutions such as a "no-fly" zone.

A three-part compromise pack-



A man chops branches for fuel Tuesday in a Sarajevo cemetery (AFP photo)

age proposed by Mr. Vance and Lord Owen sets out plans for an end to hostilities, a new constitution and a map dividing Bosnia into 10 provinces with wide local powers.

Bosnian Serb leader Radovan Karadzic asked for extra time to consult with his side.

"We cannot accept Bosnia as one state," Mr. Karadzic confirmed in an interview with the AP.

He said the Serbs would be willing to accept a "confederation without right to join other

states," and had given up ideas to join a greater Serbia.

Lord Owen said Bosnia's Muslim-led government was willing to accept the military and constitutional plans but had problems with some of the boundaries on the map.

The Bosnian war has left at least 17,000 dead — although the Bosnian government says the true figure is nearer 200,000 — and driven about one million people out of their homes.

Lord Owen urged the interna-

tional community Monday to delay military intervention until the outcome of the second round of talks but warned the Serbs against "indefinite delaying action."

Mr. Izetbegovic said the Serbs must agree to an independent, sovereign state and to put their heavy weapons under U.N. control. He rejected a confederation comprised of nations of single ethnic groups, saying it would validate the terror policy of "ethnic cleansing."

Phnom Penh warns of second Khmer genocide

PNOM PENH (Agencies) — Warning of a second Khmer Rouge genocide campaign, the Phnom Penh government said the hardline guerrillas must join the peace process by month-end or face expulsion as outlaws.

A government statement asked "the co-chairmen of the Paris international conference of Cambodia and the U.N. secretary-general to closely watch this dangerous situation and to take appropriate and necessary actions before it is too late, in order to safeguard the Cambodian people from the second Khmer Rouge genocide and to rescue the Paris agreements."

More than one million Cambodians died in a Khmer Rouge reign of terror between April 1975, when the Maoist guerrillas seized Phnom Penh, and early 1979 when they were ousted by a Vietnamese invasion.

Phnom Penh Prime Minister Hun Sen Tuesday accused the United Nations Transitional Authority in Cambodia (UNTAC), which is implementing the Paris peace agreement, of "lacking

courage."

The U.N.'s \$2 billion peace plan is in serious trouble caused by armed opposition by Khmer Rouge guerrillas and increasing political violence against opposition parties.

Mr. Hun Sen condemned the group for violating the Paris peace accord and expanding territory at the expense of the government and other Cambodian parties that have cooperated and laid down their weapons.

"So far we have not found any measures to rescue the Paris agreement from collapse," the prime minister told reporters.

The comments came a day after Prince Norodom Sihanouk, Cambodia's national reconciliation leader, said he would no longer cooperate with the U.N. peacekeeping operation in his country because of politically motivated violence there.

Prince Norodom Ranariddh said, however, that his group, Funcinpec, would continue to cooperate with the peacekeepers in carrying out a treaty to end 13 years of civil war.

Convict hanged in Washington

WALLA WALLA, Washington (AP) — Three-time child-killer Westley Allan Dodd, who asked that he be afforded the same treatment he gave one of his victims, was executed early Tuesday in the nation's first hanging in 28 years.

The 31-year-old shipping clerk was pronounced dead at 12:09 a.m. (0809 GMT), four minutes after a prison official pushed a button that opened a trap door and sent Dodd's hooded body the two-and-a-half-metre length of his gallows rope.

The state supreme court cleared the way for the execution when it issued a one-sentence ruling late Monday rejecting a bid by 26 Washington residents to halt the hanging as cruel and unusual punishment. The vote was 7-1.

It was Washington State's first execution since 1963.

The last hangings in the United States were in 1965 in Kansas, when four murderers were put to death. Among them were Richard Eugene Hickock and Perry Edward Smith, the subjects of Truman Capote's book "In Cold Blood."

Dodd, who killed three children, had dropped all appeals and asked to die because "I will kill and rape again and enjoy every minute of it."

He chose hanging over lethal injection because, he said, he had hanged his youngest victim's body in a closet after killing him.

"I was once asked by somebody, 'I don't remember who, if there was any way sex offenders could be stopped,' Dodd said in his final statement. "I said no. I was wrong."

"I was wrong when I said there was no hope, no peace. There is hope. There is peace. I found both in the Lord, Jesus Christ. Look to the lord and you will find peace."

Death penalty opponents staged prayer meetings, vigils and demonstrations across the state in the hours before the execution. Dodd was sentenced to death in 1990 for the 1989 sex murders of three boys in Washington's Vancouver area. The crimes were so grisly that some of the jurors who sentenced him sought psychiatric help afterwards.

Governor Booth Gardner rejected requests from death penalty foes to commute Dodd's sentence to life in prison.

Compromise possible on Hong Kong reforms — Patten

LONDON (R) — Hong Kong Governor Chris Patten says there is room for compromise on planned democratic reforms for the British colony and he hopes the final proposals will be acceptable to China.

"The British government has made it clear that it doesn't want to go further than the people of Hong Kong want to go, and it doesn't want to go less far," he said in an interview with the London Evening Standard.

"That is a wholly honourable position and one on which we'll take our stand," he added.

Asked whether there was room for compromise, he said: "It's perfectly possible...I hope that the proposals we come up with eventually are regarded as acceptable by the present sovereign power (Britain) and the future sovereign power (China)."

Britain is due to hand back control of Hong Kong to China in 1997.

China has relentlessly threatened Hong Kong with dire consequences since Mr. Patten announced reform proposals in

October which would effectively allow Hong Kong people to elect the majority of the colony's legislature for the first time.

Mr. Patten has challenged China to come up with better proposals for elections due in 1995.

But Peking has refused to join the debate and has demanded that Mr. Patten withdraw the entire package.

China said Tuesday British actions will determine whether foreign ministers of the two countries will be able to meet in March as scheduled to discuss Hong Kong.

"The next meeting should be held in Peking in March this year. The holding of the next meeting depends on what the British side will do," a Foreign Ministry spokeswoman said by telephone in answer to a question.

Under a 1991 Sino-British agreement, British Foreign Secretary Douglas Hurd is due to hold talks with his Chinese counterpart Qian Qichen in Peking in March as part of a series of six-monthly meetings.

Bangladeshi marchers disperse carrying their dead in shooting

DHAKA (Agency) — Muslim protesters Tuesday called off their "long march" to India and carried home the bodies of five people killed by Bangladesh police who stopped the march 12 kilometres short of the border.

United News of Bangladesh said more than 100 people were wounded Monday when paramilitary troops fired on the protesters, who had stormed across police barricades intending to march to the northern Indian town of Ayodhya to rebuild a mosque demolished last month by Hindu extremists.

Police in the frontier town of Jessore said the last of the protesters left Tuesday morning, and the town was returning to normal.

A call for a general strike and a day of mourning for the casualties of the confrontation went mostly unheeded in Jessore and in Dhaka, the capital.

The official death toll was two, but journalists accompanying the march said five people were killed.

Maulana Azizul Huq, an organizer of the march, declared it over, but he threatened to restart the campaign to force India to

rebuild the 16th century mosque. He did not elaborate.

Hindu militants tore down the mosque, which they said had been built by Muslim invaders who destroyed a temple marking the birthplace of Lord Rama, an important Hindu deity.

The mosque's destruction provoked anti-Hindu riots in Bangladesh and Pakistan, India's two Muslim neighbours. Hindus comprise 10 per cent of Bangladesh's 110 million people.

A group of some 5,000 protesters who continued towards the Indian border were dispersed by police as soon as they reached the border town of Jhikargachha Monday night.

The Bangladesh government has ordered an immediate inquiry into the violence and appealed to people in the area to exercise restraint.

Officials said security forces were still on alert.

"The march has temporarily ceased, but that doesn't mean it is all over," one official said.

The marchers set off on Saturday from Dhaka, 200 kilometres away, shouting "Our faith is in danger. We must protect it with our blood."

Plutonium ship docks at Tokai after 'secret' voyage

TOKAI, Japan (AP) — A freighter carrying 1.7 tonnes of plutonium docked here early Tuesday after a secret two-month voyage that provoked protests over Japan's plans to stockpile the deadly material for its nuclear energy programme.

The Akatsuki Maru reached Tokai port, 115 kilometres north-east of Tokyo, just after dawn Tuesday, flanked by scores of escort vessels.

Officials said it would take until Wednesday afternoon to unload the plutonium from the freighter, which is docked inside the nuclear facility that will process and store the plutonium.

About 600 anti-nuclear activists, outnumbered by some 1,000 local police, marched through the narrow streets of this farming village later Tuesday to protest the shipment that they say put the entire world at risk.

One speck of plutonium can cause cancer.

Although Japanese officials declared the Akatsuki Maru's mission a success, they expressed concern over the intensity of international criticism provoked by the secretive plutonium shipment.

Nations along possible routes demanded that the ship steer clear of their waters.

Critics of Japan's plan to develop plutonium as an inexhaustible source of energy say it will contribute to the spread of nuclear weapons and could encourage other nations, including neighbouring China and South Korea, to do the same.

North Korea, itself subject to suspicions that it may be developing nuclear weapons, vehemently denounced the plan as a scheme of "Japanese militarists, dreaming of nuclear armings."

"The government is gradually increasing its capability to make nuclear weapons. That means Japan would be a military superpower," said Yuji Shirai, a Tokyo University student who marched through Tokai.

The Japanese government has disavowed any intention of putting the plutonium to military use.

The Akatsuki Maru left Cherbourg, France, on Nov. 7 amid clashes with seaborne protesters trying to draw attention to hazards of the voyage. Green-peace ships tagged along during part of the trip.

Mulroney reshuffles cabinet; woman takes defence portfolio

OTTAWA (AP) — Prime Minister Brian Mulroney announced cabinet changes Monday, but stopped short of the wholesale retooling that might be expected before an election.

The last shuffle took place in April 1991, and the current government reaches five years in office this November.

Mr. Mulroney has said he has no intention of resigning, but polls indicate he remains the lightning rod for political discontent in Canada and that his party would be better off with another leader.

Under the latest changes, Kim Campbell will become the first woman to serve as Canada's defence minister. Ms. Campbell, who has been mentioned as a possible Mulroney successor, is a former

professor of Soviet studies.

Mr. Mulroney also accepted the resignations of five ministers. He said the changes were made to reduce the size of cabinet from 39 to 35 and to prepare for policy initiatives to be outlined next month.

Out of the cabinet are Marcel Masse, Jake Epp, Robert de Cotret, Gerald Merrithew — all ministers in Mr. Mulroney's original 1984 cabinet — and William Winegard. They have said they would not run in the next election.

A newcomer is backbencher Pierre Vincent, taking consumer and corporate affairs job.

Ten ministers were shuffled. "There will be another structural shuffle before the election," Mr. Mulroney said.

Ms. Campbell took the defence and veterans affairs jobs vacated by Mr. Masse and Mr. Merrithew.

Pierre Blais moved to justice from consumer and corporate affairs. He also acquired membership on several key committees of cabinet, where fine points of policy are worked out. Mr. Blais is already co-chairman of the conservatives' re-election campaign.

Joe Clark kept the constitutional affairs portfolio. Mr. Clark has said he was considering leaving politics; until he does, he will have a new role — running the cabinet committee that will oversee a revamping of social programmes.

Others moved include: — Bill McKnight to energy. He

left the Agriculture Department to Charlie Mayer, who merged the job with his old one as minister for grains and oilseeds.

— Associate Defence Minister Mary Collins became minister of state for Western diversification and continues as minister responsible for the status of women.

— Monique Landry, who replaced Mr. De Cotret as secretary of state.

— Monique Vezina, who replaced Ms. Landry as minister of state for external relations and retained a title as minister for seniors.

— Tom Hockin added the science ministry to the small business portfolio he already had.

— Pauline Browes went to minister of state for employment

and immigration from minister of state for environment.

With the Exception of Ms. Campbell, all potential leadership aspirants — External Affairs Minister Barbara McDougall, environment Minister Jean Charest, Communications Minister Perrin Beatty and Employment Minister Bernard Valcourt — stayed put.

Ms. Campbell, who has been able to reform such controversial areas as human rights and gun control legislation, takes on a high-profile, high-risk portfolio.

In the post-cold war world, Canada's peacekeeping commitments are increasing. At the same time troops are being cut and there are widespread calls to close bases to pare down the military infrastructure.

WORLD NEWS IN BRIEF

Cheney leaves road open to White House run

WASHINGTON (R) — Outgoing Defence Secretary Dick Cheney said Monday that he would consider a presidential run in 1996. Mr. Cheney also told reporters he is worried about U.S. military cuts planned by President-elect Bill Clinton in the face of instability in Russia. "I'm worried about it. Obviously I disagree with the positions put forth by Governor Clinton with respect to the overall size of the defence budget," he said. Mr. Cheney, White House chief of staff under President Gerald Ford in the mid-1970s and a former Republican congressman from Wyoming, said he looked forward to a possible return to politics after he is replaced by Mr. Clinton's nominee for defence secretary, Democratic Congressman Les Aspin. Clinton takes office on Jan. 20. "People from time to time talk to me about running for president," he said. "...What I've said is that when the time's right I will sit down and look at it. I haven't ruled anything in. I haven't ruled anything out. It's just like military options."

Pakistan and India swap nuclear lists

ISLAMABAD (R) — Pakistan and India swapped lists of their nuclear sites for a second year despite tense relations between the two old foes. The Pakistani Foreign Ministry and the Indian high commission (embassy) here said the exchange took place simultaneously in Islamabad and New Delhi under an accord aimed at easing suspicions about each other's nuclear capabilities. But neither side disclosed details of the lists, exchanged to comply with a 1988 agreement not to attack each other's nuclear sites. The agreement was ratified in 1991 and the first exchange of lists took place on Jan. 1 last year.

Passive smoking kills 140,000 Europeans

LONDON (R) — Passive smoking kills nearly 140,000 people in Europe every year through heart disease and cancers, a British scientific report said Tuesday. "Tobacco-smoke pollution is the most important environmental pollution suffered by non-smokers and is the greatest known mass carcinogen in history," said the report, issued by the Association for Non-Smokers' Rights Pressure Group. Of the 139,500 estimated deaths in Europe, the report said 15,200 adults died of passive smoking in Germany every year, 11,100 in Italy, 10,900 in France, 10,700 in Britain and 7,400 in Poland. "These figures do not include the deaths of unborn children, newborn babies or young infant deaths caused by their parents' smoking, so the death toll is even more appalling than the adult totals," the report said.

3 whites accused of setting black ablaze

TAMPA, Florida (AP) — The Federal Bureau of Investigations (FBI) joined the hunt Monday for three white men who allegedly abducted a black man, took him to a remote area, robbed him, then doused him with gasoline and set him ablaze. It was not immediately clear whether they were racially motivated. Christopher Wilson, 31, suffered second and third-degree burns over about 40 per cent of his body during the assault New Year's morning. He was in serious but stable condition Monday at Tampa general hospital awaiting skin grafting surgery set for Tuesday. Federal agents entered the investigation under a recent federal law banning carjacking, since Mr. Wilson was abducted at gunpoint in his car. FBI Agent Pete Wubbenhorst said. If agents determine the attack was racially motivated, they also would pursue a civil-rights case, he said. Mr. Wilson's girlfriend, Joan Benoit, said he told her the men repeatedly called him "nigger" and made a remark she could not explain. "They kept saying, 'we got one, and we've got another one to go,'" Ms. Benoit said.

Evangelicals ask Clinton to cut Vatican ties

NASHVILLE, Tennessee (R) — U.S. Evangelical Church leaders plan a campaign to persuade President-elect Bill Clinton, a Baptist, to end Washington's diplomatic ties with the Vatican which President Ronald Reagan established in 1984. The lobbying drive, reported Monday by the news agency of the 15-million-member Southern Baptist Convention, will seek to persuade Clinton to refrain from appointing an envoy to the city-state headed by the Roman Catholic pontiff on grounds such as they violate the U.S. principle of church-state separation. Washington lobbyists for the conservative Southern Baptist Christian Life Commission and the National Association of Evangelicals said in a letter to various liberal and moderate church groups that a proposed coalition may be their "final opportunity" to end Washington's formal ties to the Vatican.

Collor notified of criminal charges

BRASILIA (AP) — The supreme court Monday notified former President Fernando Collor de Mello that criminal charges have been filed against him. If found guilty of the corruption and criminal association charges, Mr. Collor could be sentenced to eight years in prison. The criminal charges were filed Nov. 12 by Attorney General Aristides Junqueira after a police investigation into an influence peddling network in the Collor government. After delivering the notification, Jose Julio Reis, the supreme court's director general, said Mr. Collor cannot leave the country without court authorisation.

Los Angeles sets new homicide record

LOS ANGELES (R) — Los Angeles residents killed each other in record numbers in 1992, the year the second-largest U.S. city was hit by the worst riots this century, authorities said Monday. Statistics released by the Los Angeles Police Department showed there were 1,063 homicides in the city from Jan. 1 to Dec. 31 of last year, 24 more than all of 1991, the previous record. Los Angeles traditionally ranks among the nation's murder capitals. Last year's figures are expected to go even higher once the official death count from 1992's final week are added in.

5 killed in shootout in Pakistan

KARACHI (R) — Five people were killed and six injured when gunmen from a breakaway faction of an ethnic party in Pakistan opened fire on rivals in the southern port city of Karachi, officials said Tuesday. The gunmen opened fire with Kalashnikov assault rifles when five members of the Mahajir National Movement (MQM) returned home late Monday after six months in hiding after the army launched a crackdown on the ethnic-based party. "Five people were killed and six injured by terrorists from the MQM (Haqiqi) group," a spokesman for the main MQM party said. An army spokesman said the law enforcement agencies were investigating the incident, and one person had been arrested.

China, India plan to open new land ports

PEKING (AP) — Indian Industries Minister P.J. Kurien and his Chinese counterpart discussed plans to open more land ports to promote lagging border trade, an official newspaper reported Tuesday. Mr. Kurien and Li Langqing, minister of foreign economic relations and trade, agreed that lively border trade would help boost overall economic relations between the two countries, the China Daily said. It did not say whether the two officials discussed the new border trade points in detail. The two Asian giants resumed direct land trade a year ago after a break of more than 30 years by opening a border trade post in Tibet and the Indian district of Pithoragarh. China and India fought a brief border war in 1962 and still dispute parts of their border.

EC to evaluate Kenyan elections

COPENHAGEN (R) — Denmark, the current European Community (EC) president, took a largely positive view of Kenya's elections but said Tuesday the EC would take a closer look at alleged irregularities. "Despite shortcomings during the preparations and certain irregularities during the polling, Kenya has now passed a milestone in its political history," Foreign Minister Uffe Ellemann-Jensen said in a statement. President Daniel Arap Moi beat his nearest rival, Kenneth Matiba of the opposition Ford Asili, by about 500,000 votes in the Dec. 29 poll and has officially been declared the winner of Kenya's first multi-party elections in 26 years.

COLUMN

Hawk with a twist

SYDNEY (AP) — A scientist believes tiny fossil bones recently found in a remote corner of Northern Australia are those of a previously unknown prehistoric Hawk able to twist its feet in any direction. "The bird is unlike anything else that has been found in Australia and does not appear to be related to anything anywhere else," Australian museum ornithologist Walter Boles said in an interview with the Sydney Morning Herald Tuesday. Mr. Boles said the hawk lived about 20 million years ago in a vast, lush rain forest at Riversleigh, now a hot and dry fossil site inland from the Gulf of Carpentaria about 1,800 kilometres northwest of the Queensland state capital, Brisbane. The bird had ankle joints so flexible that it could move its feet in all directions at different angles to its long legs. This allowed it to hang upside down from a branch with one leg as it used the other to probe the hollow of a tree for prey, he said. He said the hawk represented a new genus and species.

Milken released to halfway-house

LOS ANGELES (R) — Former junk-bond king Michael Milken, who came to embody Wall Street excesses during the 1980s "decade of greed," has been released to a halfway house after serving 22 months in prison for securities fraud, authorities said Monday. Mr. Milken, 46, left the minimum-security federal prison work camp at Pleasanton, California, Sunday and must report to an undisclosed Los Angeles halfway house, prison administrator Kathy Morse said. Mr. Milken, who paid \$1.1 billion in fines and settlements but is still estimated to be worth \$500 million, will have to observe a 6 a.m. to 6 p.m. curfew until his final release on March 2.

McDonald's launches 'McVeggie burger'

AMSTERDAM (R) — McDonald's, the world-wide American hamburger chain, launched its first meatless burger on Monday to cheer from animal rights campaigners. The "veggie burger" — made of potatoes, peas, sweetcorn, carrots, onion and spices — went on sale at 84 Dutch restaurants following satisfactory test marketing, a McDonald's spokeswoman said. At 4.75 guilders (\$2.60) including a cottage cheese and chive dressing, it costs slightly less than a big mac.

Stephanie's fiancé loses license

NICE, France (AP) — The father of prince Stephanie of Monaco's newborn, son lost his driver's license for three months Monday as punishment for beating a motorist. The sentence by a Nice court marked Ducruet's second conviction in a month stemming from fights over driving disputes. The court found Ducruet, 28, guilty of beating Francis Clarys 45, whose exit from a parking lot June 17, 1990 cut off Ducruet as he drove along the adjacent road. Hot words were followed by blows. Clarys, a shepherd, ended up in a hospital with a broken nose, split lip and skull fracture. On Dec. 11, Ducruet was ordered to pay 1,000 francs damages to Jean-Christian Raymond, a doctor, for hitting him and denting his car with kicks after a dispute over tailgating. Ducruet, a Frenchman, was Stephanie's bodyguard until he was fired by her father, Prince Rainier, after she became pregnant with Ducruet's child. Their son, Louis, was born in November. Stephanie has said she plans to marry Ducruet, but no date has been set. Ducruet told the magazine Paris-Match that he wants to drive in the gruelling Monte Carlo Rally car race.

51 held in China for currency forgery

PEKING (AP) — Two gangs that operated in nine provinces counterfeiting more than 400,000 yuan (\$69,808) have been arrested, an official newspaper reported Tuesday. Police in Kaifeng, in East China's Henan province, 600 kilometres south of Peking, began an investigation after finding a fake 50-yuan (\$8.72) bill. Fifty-one people were eventually arrested, the People's Daily said, without giving further details. The People's Bank of China, the central bank, awarded the local police 30,000 yuan (\$5,235), it said.